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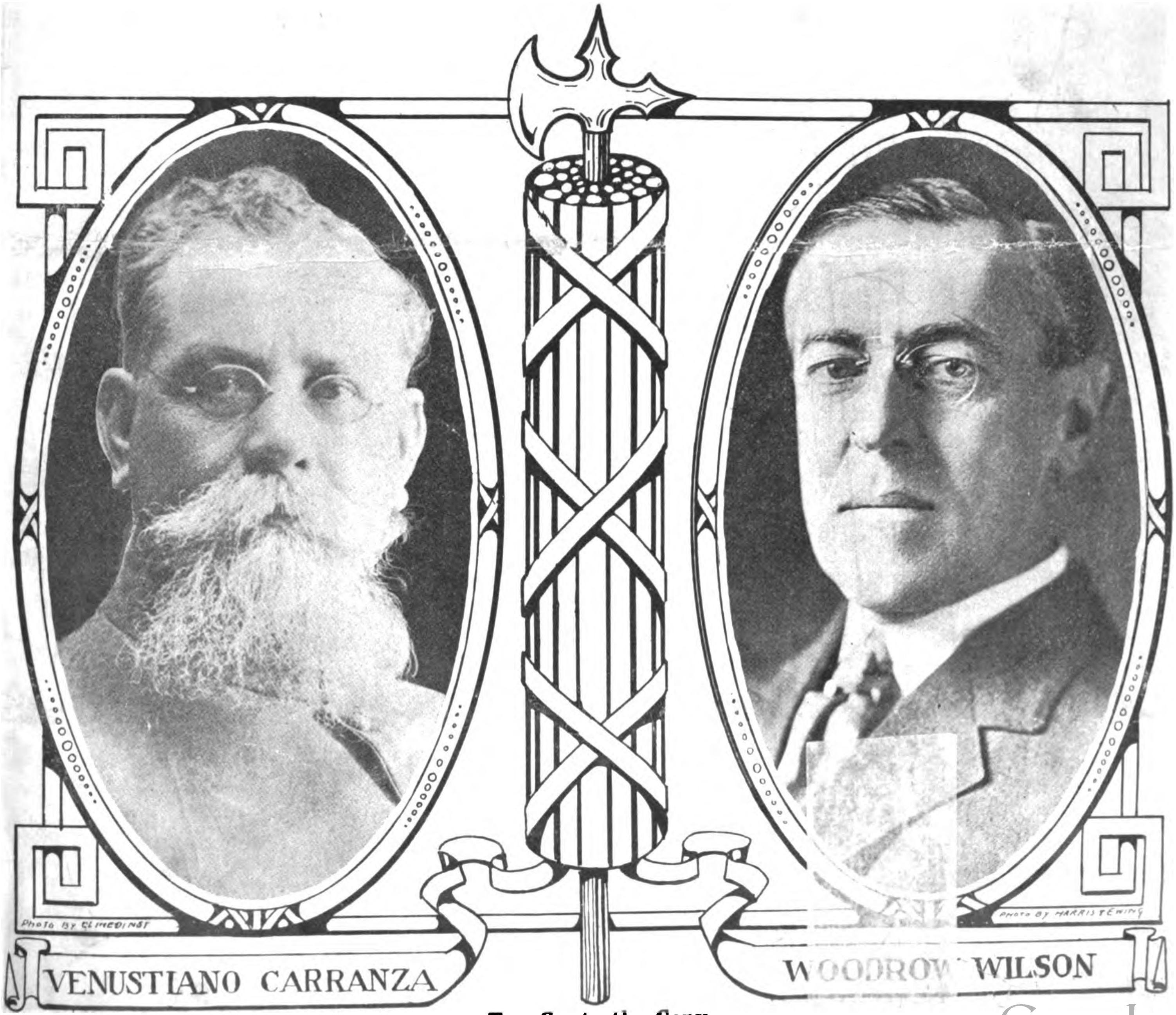
The Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

VOL. 1 WASHINGTON, D. C., OCTOBER, 1916. NO. 1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VENUSTIANO CARRANZA

WOODROW WILSON

Ten Cents the Copy

FOREWORD

THE advent of THE MEXICAN REVIEW in the American magazine field is occasioned by the known and measurable need for a periodical printed in English, published in the United States and edited by Americans who are qualified by long and broad acquaintance with the government and people of the Republic of Mexico to set before the thoughtful reading public of the United States "the Case of Mexico."

THE MEXICAN REVIEW is the proponent of but a single policy—Neighborliness. Its editors and promoters realize that throughout the century and more that has elapsed since Mexico shook free from the restrictions of alien rule—since 1810—the spirit of neighborliness has been the rarest and most faintly discernible factor in the Mexican-American relationship.

The absence of neighborliness is responsible to a far greater degree than are differences of race or creed or language for the development of the spirit of strife and discord which have characterized the Mexican-American relationship in recent years. It is with the earnest hope that the careful, truthful and at the same time persistent statement of Mexico's hopes and ambitions, her intentions and her accomplishments, will bring home to the people of the United States that the Mexicans are worthy of that friendship and confidence which the great Republic of the North stands ready so willingly to extend, that this publication is undertaken.

Propinquity breeds friendship as between individuals. It is the more natural expectation that a propinquity which combines physical contact along an international boundary line of more than 2,000 miles with the most intimate relationship and interdependence in commerce, finance and industry, should breed international friendship as well.

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will have no political or sectarian bias. The relations between Mexico and the United States find their basis in physical geography, and physical geography is a non-partisan science. Whether it is the docile donkey or the ponderous pachyderm that grazes the White House lawns, the course of the Rio Grande can be deflected by neither, and in building anew the international friendship, with both the United States and the Mexican Republic partisan politics can find no place.

As regards the question of religion, THE MEXICAN REVIEW must take the position of complete non-sectarianism. The revolutionary movement in Mexico, while combatting certain abuses by the politico-religionists, has never been an enemy of religion or an enemy of the church. Its enmity has been singly and solely against the members of the party of reaction within the Republic who have used their religious affiliation as an excuse —an instrument—for the alignment of the ignorant and the fanatical against the cause of govenmental reform.

Through the columns of THE MEXICAN REVIEW the truth about Mexico will be brought to light. It is the inspiration of its producers that only through complete, unrestricted publicity can the value of Mexico's friendship to her great northern neighbor be made clear.

THE EDITOR

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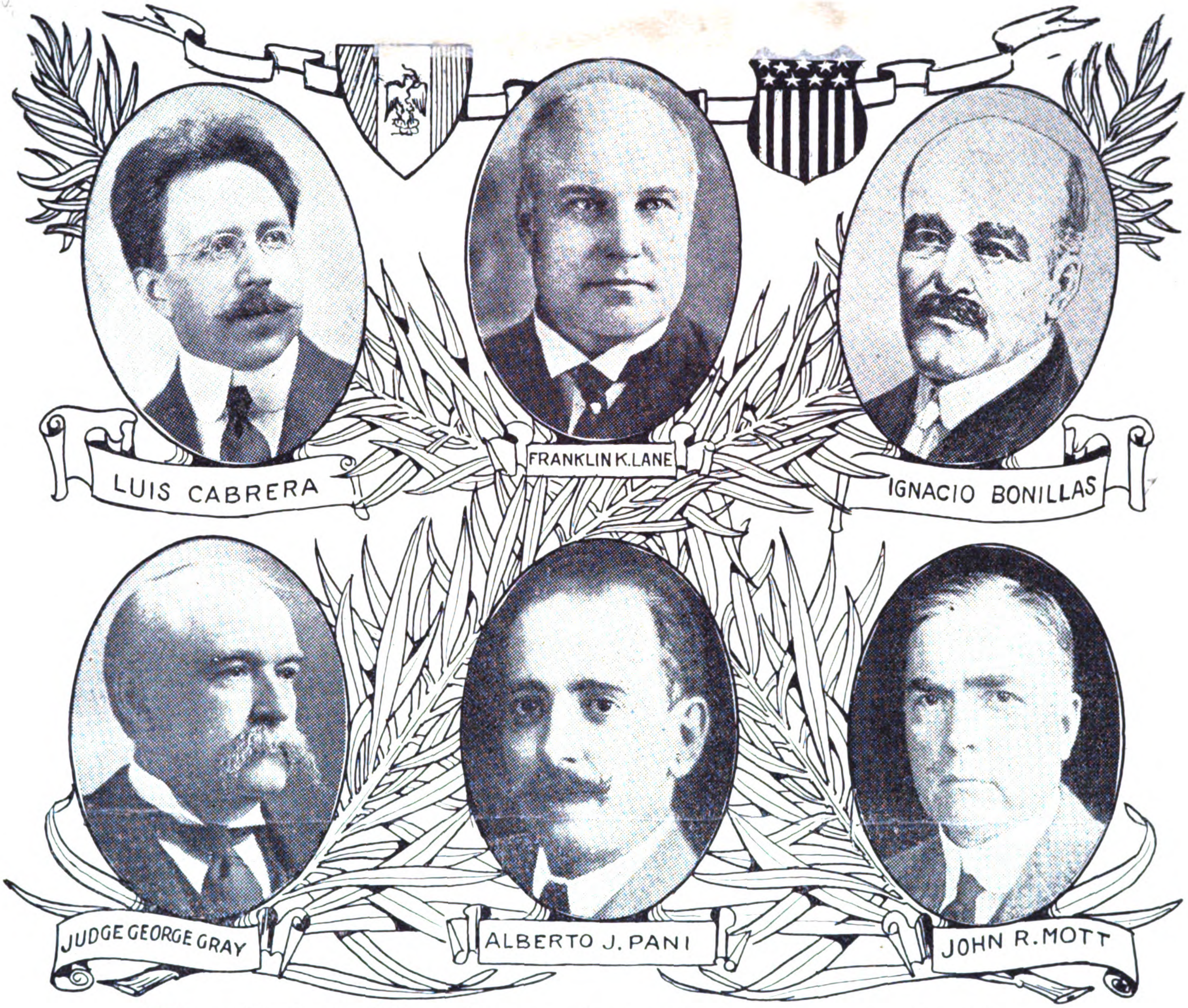

The Joint Mexican-American Commission

BEFORE the initial edition of THE MEXICAN REVIEW shall have left the press the deliberations of the joint commission of Mexican and American statesmen to whom has been delegated the delicate task of readjusting the relationships between the two republics will be well under way. To say that the citizens of both countries look with high hopes to the resultant benefits of this meeting is a mild statement of the case. Out of the interchange of views, the meeting of men of worth and weight and breadth of understanding such as is possessed by the six representative commissioners, it is felt in Mexico that the creation of a new friendship and understanding may grow. If the people of the United States are prepared to meet the people of Mexico only half way the end may speedily be attained.

To the gathering Mexico has sent Luis Cabrera, present Secretary of Hacienda (Treasury), her acknowledged leading exponent of fiscal reform, and a man who, from the earliest stages of the revolution against the policy of reaction and indifference to the rights of the Mexican People themselves, has been affiliated with the liberal movement, occupying the highest positions of trust within the power of the Government to grant. He is an excellent linguist, speaking English with but a trace of Spanish accent. He is a fluent speaker and holds high rank as an orator in Mexico.

Ignacio Bonillas is also a member of Mr. Carranza's cabinet, holding the portfolio of Secretary of Communications and Public Works. Mr. Bonillas is a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology at Boston, and has lived in the United States for many years, serving his alma mater in the capacity of professor of civil engineering. His education in English is even more complete than that of his colleague, Mr. Cabrera.

Alberto J. Pani is President of the National Railway Lines of Mexico, and is also an engineer of high attainments. By reason of his supervisory powers over the great railway system of the Republic of Mexico, and his unsurpassed acquaintance with every physical phase of the problem of betterment for the neighboring nation, Mr. Pani's experience is expected to be of vast assistance to the commissioners in working out the details of the general problem of rehabilitation for Mexico after the statesmen of the commission have had their innings with the questions of international polity involved in the discussions of the preliminary sessions.

Franklin K. Lane, Secretary of the Interior in Mr. Wilson's cabinet, is regarded as one of the strongest men of the administration. He is a Canadian by birth, but a Californian by preference; he began his career as a newspaper man, but was admitted to the bar in 1889: was Democratic candidate for Governor of California in 1902, and a member of the Interstate Commerce Commission from 1905 until he entered the cabinet, in 1913. Mr. Lane's commission to the Interstate Commerce Commission was signed by Theodore Roosevelt.

United States Circuit Judge George Gray has a long record as an arbitrator. He was a member of the Canadian Joint High Commission in 1898, and of the Spanish Peace Commission the same year; Chairman of the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission in 1902-3, and of the Alabama Coal Strike Commission in 1903. Since 1900 he has been a member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration of The Hague, and in 1910 he was a member of the tribunal in the North Atlantic Coast Fisheries Arbitration. He is seventy-six years old, and was United States Senator from Delaware, 1885-1899. His name has been repeatedly before the Democratic National Committees as a candidate for the Presidency.

Dr. John R. Mott is a native of Western New York. He was graduated from Cornell in 1888, and immediately gave himself to the Student Volunteer (Missionary) Movement. He later became General Secretary of the World's Student Christian Federation and a year ago General Secretary of the International Committee of the Y. M. C. A. He has traveled around the world in the interest of Christian missions a score of times, and is known as a powerful speaker in the Universities of a dozen countries. President Wilson, at the beginning of his administration, asked him to accept the post of Minister to China, and, when he declined, held the post open for a time and asked friends of Dr. Mott to urge him to accept.

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THE CONSTITUTIONALIST MOVEMENT

Its Causes, Plans and Purposes as Enunciated by Its Leaders and Affirmed and Elaborated by First Chief Venustiano Carranza

ON February 9, 1913, the conspiracy against President Madero, undertaken by General Victoriano Huerta, Ex-Colonel Felix Diaz, and General Bernardo Reyes and their accomplices, came to a head in the attack upon the National Palace in the City of Mexico, during which Reyes was one of the first to lose his life.

On February 18th, General Huerta came out in his true colors, after having treacherously protested that he would shed his last drop of blood in support of Madero, arrested the President and Vice-President, and by juggling the laws and over-awing a minority of Congress, had himself illegally proclaimed President of the Republic.

On February 19th, Governor Venustiano Carranza of the State of Coahuila called a special session of the Congress of that State, laid before that body the dispatches he had received from Huerta announcing his public usurpation of the chief executiveship of the nation, and asked for instructions. That Congress unanimously and without dispute or hesitation directed him to refuse to recognize the usurper and to take the field against him with all the force possible.

The order was obeyed, the nucleus of the subsequently triumphant Constitutionalist army was gathered, and active opposition to the illegal government was begun.

On the 26th of March, 1913, at a conclave of leaders held at the Hacienda of Guadalupe, [illegible] the city of Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, the following brief statement of principles and announcement of purposes was unani[illegible] adopted under the title of "The Plan of Guadalupe:"

PLAN OF GUADALUPE, SIGNED BY SIXTY-FOUR OFFICERS OF THE TROOPS OF THE STATE OF COAHUILA, ON THE 26TH OF MARCH, 1913.

DECLARATION TO THE NATION

Considering: That General Victoriano Huerta, to whom the Constitutional President, Francisco I. Madero, had confided the defense of the institutions and the legality of his government, on uniting with the rebel enemies in arms against that same government to restore the latest dictatorship, committed the crime of treason to reach power, arresting the President and Vice-President, as well as their ministers, exacting from them by violent means the resignation of their posts, which is proven by the messages that the same General Huerta addressed to the Governors of the States, advising them that he had the Supreme Magistrates of the nation and their Cabinet prisoners;

Considering: That the legislative and judicial powers have recognized and protected General Victoriano Huerta and his illegal and anti-patriotic proceedings, contrary to the constitutional laws and precepts: and considering, finally, that some Governors of the States of the Union have recognized the illegitimate government, imposed by the part of the army which consummated the treason, headed by the same General Huerta, in spite of the fact that the sovereignty of those same States whose Governors should have been the first in disowning it, had been violated, those who subscribe, chiefs and officers, in command of the Constitutional forces, have accorded and shall sustain by arms the following:

PLAN

1. General Victoriano Huerta, as President of the Republic, shall be disowned.
2. The legislative and judicial powers of the Federation shall also be disowned.
3. The Governors of the States who still recognize the Federal powers forming the present administration, thirty days after the publication of this plan, shall be disowned.
4. For the organization of the army in charge of seeing that our purposes are carried out, we name as First Chief of the army, which will be called Constitutionalist, Venustiano Carranza, Governor of the State of Coahuila.
5. When the Constitutionalist army shall occupy Mexico City, the executive power will be provisionally in charge of Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the army, or in charge of that person who might substitute him in command.
6. The Provisional President of the Republic will convene general elections as soon as peace may have been consolidated, handing the power to the citizen who may have been elected.
7. The citizen who may act as First Chief of the Constitutionalist army in the States whose Government might have recognized that of Huerta, will assume the charge of Provisional Governor and will convoke local elections, after the citizens elected to discharge the high powers of the Federation may have taken possession of their office, as provided for in the foregoing basis.

PURPOSES OF THE REVOLUTION IN DETAIL

On December 12, 1914, First Chief Carranza issued from Vera Cruz, the temporary seat of the National Government, the following statement in amplification of the purposes and pledges of the Constitutionalists:

Decree of December 12th, 1914, issued at Vera Cruz, Mexico, by the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation.

Article 1. The Plan of Guadalupe, dated March 26th, 1913, shall subsist until the Revolution obtains complete success, and therefore Venustiano Carranza shall continue as First Chief of the Constitutional Revolution and in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation until the enemy is overpowered and peace is restored.

Article 2. The First Chief of the Revolution, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, shall issue and cause to be observed all the laws, provisions, and measures tending to satisfy the economic, social, and political needs of the country, carrying into effect such reforms as public opinion may consider indispensable for the establishment of a regime which shall guarantee the equality of Mexicans among themselves; the enactment of agrarian laws to encourage the creation of the small landowner, dissolving the latifundia or expanding land holdings and restoring to the townships the lands unjustly taken from them; fiscal laws tending to secure an equitable system of taxation on real estate; legislation to improve the condition of the rural laborer, the artisan, the miner, and in general of the working classes; the establishment of municipal freedom as a constitutional institution; the basis for a new system of organization of the army; the amendment of the election laws in order to insure the efficiency of suffrage; the revision of laws relative to marriage and the civil status of persons; provisions to maintain the strict observance of the Laws of Reform, the revision of the civil, penal and commercial codes; the amendment of judicial procedure, with a view to expedite and enhance the efficiency of the administration of justice; the revision of the laws relative to the operation of mines, oil fields, water rights, forests and other natural resources of the country, in order to destroy the monopolies created under the past regime, and to avoid the creation of others in the future; politicial reforms to insure the true application of the constitution of the Republic, and, in general, the enactment of all other laws which may be considered necessary to safeguard the effectiveness and full enjoyment of the rights of all the inhabitants of the country and their equality before the law.

Article 3. In order to continue the struggle and to carry into effect the work of reform to which the preceding article refers, the First Chief of the Revolution is expressly authorized to convene and organize the Constitutionalist army, and to direct the operations of the campaign; to appoint the Governors and military commanders of the States and to remove the same freely; to decree the expropriations on the ground of public utility which may be necessary for the distribution of the lands, the foundation of townships and other public services; to negotiate loans and issue obligations against the National Treasury, indicating the assets by which they are to be guaranteed; to appoint and remove freely all Federal officers of the civil administration of the States, territories and the Federal District; to organize the departments of state and define the province of action of each one of them; to make, either directly or through the officers he may appoint to that effect, requisitions for lands, buildings, arms, horses, vehicles, provisions and other elements of warfare, as also to institute decorations and to decree rewards for services rendered to the Revolution.

Article 4. Upon the success of the Revolution, the reinstatement of the Supreme Chieftainship in the City of Mexico and after the elections of the municipal councils have taken place in the majority of the States of the Republic, the First Chief of the Revolution, as the person in charge of the Executive Power, shall convene elections for members of the National Congress, stating in the call the dates and terms on which such elections shall take place.

Article 5. Upon the installation of the National Congress, the First Chief of the Revolution shall render an account before it concerning the use he may have made of the powers with which he is invested by this decree, and he shall specially submit the reforms decreed and put into effect during the struggle, to the end that Congress may ratify, amend or supplement them, and to adopt as constitutional precepts those which should be so maintained, prior to the reestablishment of constitutional order.

Article 6. The National Congress shall issue the proper calls for the election of President of the Republic, and as soon as this has taken place, the First Chief of the Revolution shall deliver to the President elected the Executive Power of the Nation.

Article 7. In the case of absolute default of the present First Chief of the Revolution and while the generals and governors proceed to elect the person who should take his place, the Supreme Chieftainship shall devolve transitorily upon the Chief of the Army Corps in the place where the seat of the Revolutionary Government may be at the time the default of the First Chief may occur.

Constitution and Reforms. Vera Cruz, December 12, 1914.

STILL FURTHER AMPLIFICATION

In further amplification of the purposes of the Constitutionalists, First Chief Carranza, on June 11, 1915, after the Villa opposition had been crushed and the greater portion of the country had been brought under Constitutionalist control, issued a manifesto in which, after reciting the accomplishments under his leadership, and appealing to the remaining scattered factions to cease their opposition and join in the pacification and restoration of the entire country, he concluded as follows:

1. The Constitutionalist Government shall afford to foreigners residing in Mexico all the guarantees to which they are entitled according to our laws, and shall amply protect their lives, their freedom and the enjoyment of their rights of property, allowing them indemnities for the damages which the revolution may have caused to them, in so far as such indemnities may be just, and which are to be determined by a procedure to be established later. The Government shall also assume the responsibility of legitimate financial obligations.

2. The first concern of the Constitutionalist Government shall be to reestablish peace within the province of law and order, to the end that all the inhabitants of Mexico, both native and foreign, shall equally enjoy the benefits of true justice and be interested in cooperating to the support of the Government emanating from the revolution. The commission of crimes of the common order shall be punished. In due time an amnesty shall be enacted in keeping with the necessities of the country and the situation, which in no way shall exempt those under it of the civil responsibilities they may have incurred.

3. The constitutional laws of Mexico known under the name of Laws of Reform, which establish the separation of the Church and the State and which guarantee the individual right of worship in accordance with his own conscience and without offending public order, shall be strictly observed; therefore, no one shall suffer in his life, freedom and property because of his religious beliefs. Temples shall continue to be the property of the nation according to laws in force, and the Constitutionalist Government shall again cede for the purposes of worship those which may be necessary.

4. There shall be no confiscations in connection with the settlement of the agrarian question. This problem shall be solved by an equitable distribution of the lands still owned by the Government; by the recovery of those lots which may have been illegally taken from individuals or communities; by the purchase and expropriation of large tracts of land, if necessary; by all other means of acquisition permitted by the laws of the country. The Constitution of Mexico forbids privileges, and therefore all kinds of properties, regardless of whom the owners may be, whether operated or not, shall in the future be subject to the proportional payment of a tax in accordance with a just and equitable valuation.

5. All property legitimately acquired from individuals or legal governments, and which may not constitute a privilege or a monopoly, shall be respected.

6. The peace and safety of a nation depends upon the clear understanding of citizenship; therefore, the Government shall take pains in developing public education, causing it to spread throughout the whole country, and to this end it shall utilize all cooperation rendered in good faith, permitting the establishment of private schools subject to our laws.

HOW CONSTITUTIONALISTS KEEP THEIR PLEDGES

Brief Summary of What Has Been and Is Being Done in Fulfilment of the Promises Made at the Outset of the Movement for the Redemption of Mexico

It will be seen from a perusal of the foregoing that the Constitutionalists have pledged themselves to these reforms:

Agrarian reform, including restoration of community lands where wrongfully sequestrated.
Equitable land tax.
Improving the condition of the laboring classes.
Municipal freedom.
Reorganization of the army.
Equitable election laws.
Laws concerning marriage and divorce—permitting latter by mutual consent.
Enforcing the reform laws (of Juarez).
Revision of civil, penal and commercial codes.
Amendment of judicial procedure to secure prompt settlement of cases.
Revision of oil, water, mining, forest and other laws so as to prevent monopolies.
Laws for the enforcement of the true application of the Constitution, for the safeguarding of the rights of all, and to provide equality before the law.
Guarantee of absolute religious freedom.
Protection to life and property of all foreigners and payment of indemnity where justly due.
Amnesty to all in due time.
No confiscation of property.
All legitimate property rights to be regarded.
No special privileges; all must pay taxes on an equal basis.
Education for all.

One of the objects for which THE REVIEW has been established is to show what has been and is being done toward carrying out these pledges. Concrete illustrations will be given in each issue demonstrating the sincerity of those now in control of the Government in their efforts to accomplish the reforms for which they have so long been contending.

Briefly at this juncture this may be said regarding the fulfilment of these pledges:

Active work has been in progress in the direction of agrarian reform for many months. Agrarian commissions are at work in various States in accordance with the comprehensive plan adopted and announced by the First Chief upward of two years ago. Community lands are being restored to their rightful owners in many portions of the Republic, and as rapidly as possible those desiring tracts for cultivation are being accommodated, as related in extent elsewhere.

A plan for the proper taxation of lands is being formulated, with the object of discouraging the holding of immense tracts in an undeveloped condition, thus preventing those who desire to cultivate the soil from securing an opportunity to do so. In the past large tracts have practically escaped contributing anything toward the carrying on of the government, but the Constitutionalists are devising adequate and equitable measures to put an end to this unjust and intolerable condition.

The condition of the working class has been immeasurably improved in all portions of the country. Peonage, the debt system which amounted practically to perpetual slavery, has been entirely abolished. No man may be held in bondage in this manner; the amount of indebtedness of a laborer is limited by law; whether liquidated or not, at the end of a certain period it is wiped out, and no man's family can be held for his indebtedness after his death. The eight hour day has been decreed, and laborers in shop, factory, store, and elsewhere who are required to work more than the established number of hours must be paid in proportion. The minimum wage has been decreed, and no longer can laborers be forced to toil from daylight to dark and even later for a pittance of but a few centavos daily. Unions for the first time in the history of the country are recognized and even encouraged, and no longer are men seeking to ameliorate the condition of the toilers through the medium of organizations treated as conspirators and shot down in cold blood. Strikes are settled by the government officials in a manner just to both sides, after careful and due examination of the merits of each case. In a word, the condition of the entire working class has been immensely alleviated under the Constitutionalists.

Municipal freedom has been decreed and municipal elections have recently been held throughout the Republic. The old despotism of Government by a "Jefe Politico" appointed by the central government and with no regard to the wishes of the people of the communities so governed, has been abolished.

Work is progressing toward the reorganization of the army. No longer is the army filled by conscription or by the enforced enlistment in the ranks of criminals in lieu of terms of imprisonment. Instead the entire army is composed of men who freely tender their services. As a result discipline is better and the work of the forces immeasurably superior to that of the old military.

Laws for the equitable administration of elections are being prepared and it is the promise of the First Chief that every citizen of the country over 21 years of age shall have the right to vote.

The laws governing marriage and divorce have been revised, and it is now possible for disagreeing and incompatible couples to secure legal separation by mutual consent under certain restrictions—one being that any couple so applying must have been married at least one year before securing any standing in court.

Measures for the complete enforcement of the Reform laws of Juarez, also the revision of the civil, penal and commercial codes in order to secure prompt adjudication of cases brought before the courts, are under consideration and in due time will be carried out. This is a work that requires time and study.

Decrees have already been promulgated governing the exploitation of the mineral, oil, water, forest and other resources of the Republic in order to prevent monopolies as well as the holding of large areas of such lands under single control, thereby hindering legitimate development by others.

Highly important among the reforms pledged by the Constitutionalists is absolute religious freedom to all—no matter what sect, cult or faith. It is a great mistake to accuse the present Government of anything whatever savoring of religious persecution. Nothing of the sort is true. Every form of religious belief is recognized and receives the protection of the law without discrimination or favor—something that has been absent from Mexican administration for many years. So long as religious organizations confine themselves to their rightful domain—the spiritual welfare of the people—so long they are protected and encouraged. When they go outside of their legitimate domain, no matter what their character, they are violators of the law and will be dealt with accordingly. But religious organizations engaged in the performance of religious duties are as safe in Mexico as in the United States.

It must be borne in mind in this connection that all former church property in the country is the property of the people, and that religious organizations are permitted to utilize buildings of this character subject to regulation by law. Also it must be remembered that religious communities, such as monasteries, convents, etc., are contrary to law in Mexico as in many other countries, and those persisting in maintaining them do so at their own peril. This inhibition was enforced under the reform laws of Juarez and it is one of the laws again being enforced by the present Government.

Protection of life and property is extended to all foreigners in all territory under Constitutionalist control, and a guarantee has been given repeatedly for the payment of just indemnities for loss. In time of internal disorder and stress in Mexico, as in every other country in the world, not excluding the United States, there has been regrettable, unavoidable and sometimes malicious destruction of life and property, but the losses of the latter class have been small and few in number. Impartial examination will disclose the fact that in many cases where great complaint has been made the sufferers were themselves to blame, either by venturing into districts against warning that they were unsafe, or by unwise conduct on the part of the sufferers. But in every case where damage has been done that calls for indemnity under international law, it may be depended upon that in due time adequate reparation will be made.

Amnesty has already been granted to many thousands of the opponents of the present Government and in due time will be extended to all. But that due time should be given has been exemplified by the fact that many of the enemies of Constitutionalism who were pardoned have soon commenced machinations for the overthrow of the Government which had extended leniency to them, thereby showing their ingratitude and the unwisdom of too great haste in this vital matter.

The pledge of no confiscation of property and the observance of all legitimate property rights is observed. It has been found necessary for the government to take temporary charge of the properties of its enemies in some cases, but the pledge has been given that this is not to be permanent, but that in due time the former owners if possessing legal titles will be reinstated.

The abolition of special privilege has been carried out wherever practicable and constant progress is being made in that direction. The enforcement of taxation upon all on an equal basis is one of the great accomplishments of the Constitutionalist Government, and at the same time has met the most violent opposition and misrepresentation on the part of the former beneficiaries of the special privilege system. The commonest kind of fair play demands that foreigners should not be permitted special privileges over those enjoyed by the natives of a country, and that those who derive wealth from the resources of a country should return at least a modicum for the support of the government which makes their operations possible. There is no anti-foreign sentiment per se involved in this question. It is purely a matter of justice.

The educational pledge, next in importance to the one for the amelioration of the condition of the working people—perhaps indeed superior to it, but at all events marching hand in hand, the one depending upon the other—has received the greatest attention. Thousands of new schools have been and are being established in the various States and unceasing efforts are being made in this direction in all portions of the Republic. Long before complete domination had been secured, this matter received earnest attention and large numbers of teachers were sent to the United States in order to get in touch with the best educational methods. Industrial, training, commercial, and normal schools have been established in centers of population everywhere, millions have been devoted to these purposes, and comprehensive plans adopted for the placing of a plain, practical education within the reach of every person in the country.

As stated, one of the chief objects of The Review is to tell the public what is being accomplished by the Constitutionalists in redemption of their pledges, and every issue of the periodical will contain accounts of what is being done in the directions noted in the foregoing.

LANDS FOR THE LANDLESS

Applicants Allowed Temporary Free Occupation of Tracts Upon Which to Produce Crops—Animals, Seeds and Implements Supplied by the Government.

Mexico City, August 25, 1916.

WHOSOEVER will let him come and be allotted a tract of land of whatever size he may be able to cultivate and thereupon raise a crop of corn or beans or what not for the sustenance of himself and his family or for sale in the open market. And not only will he be permitted to go upon the lands thus allotted, but in case (which is the usual rule) he has not the wherewithal for the purchase of the necessary seeds, implements or animals for cultivating the allotment, these will be supplied by the Government.

These lands are not given outright to applicants, but are merely loaned temporarily for the purpose of crop raising. They are in general the property of large owners who either never have cultivated them, have utilized only a small portion at any time, or who are neglecting their cultivation because of unsettled conditions in some sections, but who as a rule have always and at all times, pre-revolutionary as well as during revolutions, refused to permit the landless to make any use thereof except at most exorbitant rentals. From one-half to two-thirds of the annual product has not infrequently been exacted from poor farmers by the owners of vast tracts, who are thus enabled to live in the cities in luxury while the peons who supply the means therefor are kept in the depths of poverty.

Two or three months ago the national authorities instructed the State Governments to list all arable lands whose owners were neglecting or had abandoned their cultivation, with the object of allowing those who wished to do so to go upon such holdings and produce crops. The Government also undertook to supply work animals, seed and implements to those needing them, in order to put as large an area as possible under cultivation without unnecessary delay. As a result very large tracts that have for some time been unproductive have been brought under cultivation, and the resultant crops will go far toward relieving any apprehension as to a possible food shortage. The offer has been responded to with eagerness and alacrity by the industrious landless—and it is a mistake to suppose that the poor farming class of Mexico are not industrious and are not "land hungry." That hunger lies at the base of the revolutionary movement of the past hundred years, and while the present plan does not give them title to the lands allotted for cultivation, it may very well be that such result will follow. The new land tax laws have not as yet been put into operation, but when they are there will be a breaking up and sale of the immense holdings in all portions of the Republic, since the present holders will as a rule find it difficult to meet the demands made—not exorbitant by any means, but a fair contribution toward the expenses of the Government. In the past they have escaped this, but one of the cardinal principles of the revolution as repeatedly declared by the leaders and heartily sustained by their followers is adequate land taxation, and the result of such taxation will be inevitable, just as it was in California and other portions of the west, which were kept from development by the same system of large land holdings that has retarded the advancement of Mexico. As soon as the assessor and tax collector did their duty impartially and without favor, the great holdings had to go, and so it will be in this country. In the meantime the temporary allottment of lands for purposes of cultivation is a very popular and very far seeing movement, minimizing as it does any possible contingency of food shortage in the Republic for the present or the coming year.

MUNICIPAL AND CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS

GREAT interest was taken in all parts of the Republic in the municipal elections which were held on Sunday, September 3, in all the States. The exigencies of publication make it impossible for The Review to give its readers anything regarding the results, and this is perforce postponed until the next issue. But it can be said that great popular interest was taken in the event, since it had been pledged that the election should be absolutely free and that there would be no interference with the voters in expressing their untrammeled choice.

Following the municipal elections, preparations are already being made for the choice of delegates to Congress. Complete new houses will be chosen and upon them will fall the duty of passing upon the various decrees that have been issued during the revolution by the First Chief and deciding whether they shall be incorporated in the national code. The new Congress will also call an election for President and Vice-President in accordance with the laws governing such matters. When these officials shall have been elected and their choice confirmed by Congress, then the First Chief will resign to the President-elect the executive powers reposed in him under the Plan of Guadalupe, and with this resignation will come the restoration of complete constitutional rule throughout the Republic which was destroyed by Huerta and his associate conspirators in February, 1913.

NO SPECIAL PRIVILEGES FOR FOREIGNERS

Hereafter They Are Placed Upon the Same Basis as Citizens of Mexico and Entitled to the Same Treatment, But No More.

THERE has been much misunderstanding regarding the decree recently issued by the First Chief, in which foreigners who may hereafter seek to do business in the Republic are put upon the same basis before the law as Mexican citizens. It has been erroneously stated that this decree obligated such foreigners to become Mexican citizens, but this is not the case, as the text of the decree itself demonstrates. All that is done is to put the American or other foreigner doing business in Mexico upon exactly the same footing as the Mexican or other foreigner doing business in the United States or any other country. He is required to pledge himself to abide by the laws of the country governing the corporation or company in which he may be a principal or a stockholder, and not to bring forward his foreign citizenship as an excuse for appealing to his home government for privileges not exercised by the Mexican stockholders in the same company. This decree is not retroactive and does not affect those already engaged in business in Mexico, except as they may take up new enterprises, and when they choose to do this they act with full knowledge of the new regulation.

But the decree speaks for itself. Its text is as follows:

"The Citizen First Chief of the Constitutionalist army, in charge of the executive power, considering that as a consequence of our fundamental laws, in which is the provision that foreigners must enjoy in Mexico the same rights as Mexicans, it is also natural and legitimate that they should have the same obligations, in order that it shall not be understood that the liberality of our institutions shall come to the point where foreigners converted into owners of property in the Republic may be, as unfortunately has been the case, in a better legal position than Mexicans; all of which would happen should the former, besides being able to make use of the rights, actions and resources granted by the Mexican laws relating to property and its legal relations, also exercise the resources of formulating complaints before their respective Governments.

"The First Magistrate of the Republic, by virtue of the extraordinary faculties which he possesses, has seen fit to order the establishment of the following provisions, of obligatory nature, in all the Republic:

"First—Foreigners who propose to acquire in the Republic of Mexico unappropriated or national lands, mining properties, matters of Federal jurisdiction, or permits for the exploitation or exploration of natural riches such as forest products, petroleum, fisheries, etc., must first present in writing to the Department of Foreign Affairs a formal, express and conclusive declaration that in their condition as owners and concessionaires, and for all the effects and relations relating to the property which they are endeavoring to acquire, they consider themselves as being Mexicans, renouncing their rights as foreigners, and the right to appeal to their respective Governments for protection or complaint.

"Foreign companies shall be unable to acquire rights relating to any property mentioned in this circular until they have been nationalized, and have submitted to the Mexican laws, making the aforementioned declaration.

"Second—In order that the Department of Fomento, Colonization and Industry may admit any denouncement or petition made by a foreigner referring to any of the branches referred to in the foreign clause, and even though it shall deal simply with permits for exploration, it is an indispensable requisite that there shall be presented with the first petition a certificate issued by the Department of Foreign Affairs, in which is contained the declaration previously mentioned herein.

"If this requisite is omitted, everything made or done as resolved shall be null and void until the said certificate shall be presented. The titles of ownership permits to property, as above mentioned, which should have been granted by the Department of Fomento to foreigners, and all contracts or public documents referring to the same, and authorized by notaries public, must contain, literally inserted, the certificates provided in this clause, and its contents also shall be inserted in said documents as a special clause therein.

"The failure to insert the certificate, or to make such a special clause, shall be cause of the nullity of the title, permit, contract or document respectively.

"Third—In all matters already taken up by foreigners, and which are being proceeded within the Department of Fomento or its administrative agencies, and which refer to all property mentioned in this circular, such proceedings will be allowed to pend, and will not be again proceeded with until the interested parties shall have presented the certificate above referred to.

"If within a period of four months, counted from the date of this circular, the certificate has not been presented by the interested party, he shall be considered as having withdrawn his petition, and the respective files will be ordered remitted to the archives, and the interested person will have no right to exercise any recourse whatever against this proceeding.

"These provisions shall be of an obligatory nature in all the Republic. They shall be published in the Diario Official for publicity and exact compliance, and will become effective from the date of issuance."

The Mexican con stitution provides the following regarding the status of foreigners in that country:

"They (foreigners) are under obligation to contribute to the public expense in the manner which the law may provide, and to obey and respect the institutions, laws and authorities of the country, subjecting themselves to the decisions of the tribunals, *without power to seek other protection than that which the laws concede to Mexican citizens.*"

MEXICO welcomes the United States to the ranks of the opponents of child labor. The Constitutionalists set the example almost two years ago, and now the United States Congress has adopted a measure in the same direction. THE REVIEW proposes to point out from time to time some other needed reforms in which Mexico has taken the lead and is far ahead of her next-door neighbor.

STRICT regulation and even prohibition of the use or sale of opium is enforced in many portions of Mexico.

NATIONAL LOANS

Legislative Action Needed in Order to Issue Bonds That Shall Be Binding and Can Be Negotiated

SINCE the Constitutionalists gained ascendancy in Mexico many statements have been circulated regarding the practicability of floating a bond issue or securing a loan from foreign bankers or with their aid, for the purpose of placing the finances of the country upon a sound basis with the least possible delay. The assertion has frequently been made that government officials had approached bankers with this object in view and had been repulsed.

THE REVIEW has the highest authority for declaring that such statements have no foundation in fact. No request for a loan has been made by the Constitutionalist leaders or their authorized representatives, and therefore such suppositious request could not have been refused.

On the other hand, the leaders, including the First Chief himself, have expressed the belief that Mexico can, if unhampered, rehabilitate her own finances from her own illimitable resources, just as is now being done, as shown elsewhere, with her currency system. But whether this be possible or not (though it is by no means regarded as impracticable by those familiar with the situation), one thing is certain: Securing a loan presupposes the issuance of bonds upon which to base that loan. Such bonds, in order that they may be of any value in the markets of the world, must first be authorized by the supreme legislative body of the country.

Mexico at present has no such body. Hence there is no possibility of securing the authorization essential to a bond issue. No one knows or realizes this better than the Government of that country, and for this reason, if for no other, those in authority have never made any effort in this direction, but have contented themselves with seeking to rehabilitate the country's finances so far as possible from its own vast and but partially developed resources.

It is expected that Congressional elections will be held this fall, municipal elections having been called for the first Sunday in September, and that the body so chosen will call a Presidential election. That body can, if it see fit, authorize the issuance of bonds for the purpose of securing a loan abroad, but until a National Congress, elected under the Constitution, shall have been installed, it is useless to discuss the question of the feasibility of a bond issue.

Article 72 of the Constitution of the United States of Mexico, adopted in 1857 under the leadership of Benito Juarez, the great patriot and reformer, defining the duties of Congress, deals as follows with this question:

"Section 8. (Congress shall have power) To give the basis under which the Executive may negotiate loans on the credit of the nation; to approve such loans, and to acknowledge and command payment of the national debt."

From this it will be seen that the statements above given in this connection are incontrovertible and that until the election of a National Congress it is useless to discuss the feasibility of floating a national loan.

At the same time, it is well understood in official circles in Mexico that assurance has been given that when the proper time comes and the required official method of preliminary procedure can be followed, there will be little or no difficulty in placing a bond issue for any reasonable amount.

· The ·
Mexican Review

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TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS
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NOTE AND COMMENT

THE Secretary of Public Instruction has issued a circular calling the attention of all heads of families to the fact that they are under legal obligation to send their children to school regularly under penalty of punishment. In this connection, it is of interest to note that one of the first steps of the Constitutionalists in the State of Coahuila, taken during the early strenuous days, was the issuance of a decree forbidding the employment of children under fourteen in factories, etc., establishing compulsory education, and providing industrial training for men and women desiring it.

* * *

BY the explosion of a powder factory in Yucaan in July several employes lost their lives. The State Government has given the families of ach of those killed an amount equal to two ears' salary, as well as a sufficient additional um to defray their funeral expenses. Decrees mposing liability upon all employers in case of ccident to or death of their employes are in orce in all portions of the Republic. The old ays when a scant dole of a few pesos was flung o wives and mothers when the breadwinner lost his life in mine or factory have gone never to return.

* * *

THE Mechanics and Metals National Bank of New York has recently issued a booklet on Mexico which is replete with valuable information regarding the finances of that country. It is well worth careful study, more particularly by those who are disposed to regard that country as an industrial, commercial and financial wreck. Little if anything is to be found in its pages to support that mistaken idea, but on the contrary there is a wealth of information of exactly opposite character. THE REVIEW is indebted to this booklet for several very interesting paragraphs. It is worthy of the widest possible circulation.

* * *

ON August 15th the chief of the custom house at Vera Cruz delivered to the National Treasurer the sum of sixteen million dollars in Mexican specie, equivalent to eight millions in American gold, being the collections of export and import dues for a portion of the year—the exact period is not stated. At this rate, and bearing in mind that Vera Cruz is only one out of many (although the principal) ports of entry in the Republic, the accumulation of the reserve referred to elsewhere and its material and rapid accretion is readily explained. And it lends additional color to the belief entertained by many that Mexico can if given sufficient time rehabilitate her own finances without outside help.

* * *

FROM June 1912 to June 1913, under normal conditions except possibly for the last two months, there were exported from Mexico gold, silver and copper to the value of $81,021,005. From June, 1915, to June, 1916, the total exports of these metals amounted to $40,700,000. During this latter period conditions in many mining camps were at their worst. Many were shut down and many were unable to ship their product, while for a large portion of the time a decree was in rigid effect forbidding the exportation of the precious metals, in order to keep them at home to relieve the currency situation, the result being an accumulation of over $50,000,000 specie in the national treasury. Except for these reasons, the exportation would undoubtedly have approximated very closely to that of 1912-13. Surely a very fair showing for a country whose cheif industries are popularly supposed to have been ruined.

* * *

A PERIODICAL which boasts of its impartiality and strict regard for justice in discussing the affairs of other nations, concludes an article upon the recent decree regarding the granting of concessions to foreigners with the following sentence:

> "This is part of the de facto Government's well known policy to Mexicanize all the industries of the country."

There is no such policy. The measure in question is part of the well known and long avowed policy of the Constitutionalists to give foreigners no privileges in Mexico that are not enjoyed by Mexicans, and to put them upon exactly the same basis that Mexicans occupy in other countries. No one would object quicker than Americans if foreigners were given greater privileges in the United States than themselves. Why then blame Mexicans for doing the same thing?

* * *

FOR several months a unique method of reducing the Mexican national debt has been practiced with most beneficial results. People of all classes have been sending in to the national treasury paper currency to the extent of millions, to be destroyed. Entertainments are being given and the proceeds so utilized; contributions have been raised in factories, public offices, in the army, and in all classes of employment, and the profits realized have gone to the furnace. Jewelry and articles of value have been donated, sold, and the receipts therefrom sent in for destruction. Individual contributions have been noted as high as fifty thousand pesos. The movement is general in all portions of the Republic and the national indebtedness has thereby been decreased by many millions. If the world has seen anything like this in the past it has escaped general observation. It is a most emphatic demonstration of unselfish patriotism as well as of the faith placed by the people in the Constitutionalist Government.

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TEMPERANCE IN MEXICO

Throttling the Drink Evil and Restricting Manufacture and Sale of Ardent Spirits is Constitutionalists' Policy

BY LUIS BOSSERO

AMONG the many reforms which are being undertaken by the leaders of the revolution, among the many changes which are being inaugurated, calculated to shape the future of Mexico, the questions of temperance and prohibition have been given a great deal of profound consideration. Like many other countries, Mexico too has been afflicted, and to a large extent still is, with the great evils resulting from overindulgence in strong, alcoholic beverages. This was realized by the Constitutionalist leaders from the first moment the constructive era began. It was evident to them that those were problems which could not be overlooked and of a nature demanding serious and immediate attention.

Unfortunately the drink evil in Mexico had peculiar native characteristics which were difficult to cope with. They were conditions resulting from centuries of indulgence in such nerve wrecking poisonous drinks as pulque, mescal and tequila. Those were beverages centuries old and naturally the common drink of the Indians and peons. Those drinks, especially pulque, were part of their daily life. Without the consumption of several pints of pulque the day was not complete. Thus it was that pulque became a national menace. And it was against this terrific evil that the present day leaders of Mexico had to make a determined stand.

In the days of the Diaz regime, when the welfare of the peons and Indians was given little consideration, the manufacture of pulque was encouraged by the Government. A pulque trust had been formed, which was known as the "Compania Pulqueria," which had rented and bought up the most advantageous establishments where pulque was sold or manufactured. Among the leaders of that trust it is claimed were a number of prominent government officials. It was by the aid of this diabolic drink that the people were virtually kept in submission and ignorance. The pulque trust acted as a secret ally of the Government and "haciendados," helping both to keep a tight grip upon the miserable people. And because it was favored by the Government all those who opposed it, commercially or otherwise, were quietly disposed of. The company did a tremendous and very profitable business. At one period of its existence its fame had reached even as far as the Paris Board of Trade, where a great many of its shares were sold. This deplorable state of affairs lasted for some time. The advent of the revolution brought in its sweep a host of reformers, whose complaints against the existing state of affairs grew louder and more persistent. Besides a good many Americans and Europeans had noticed the tragic state of affairs. And while the Diaz Government cared little for the people, the good opinion of the foreigners meant a great deal. The result was that the Diaz Government decided to fight one evil by the introduction of another, and perhaps a much more dangerous one.

In those days whiskey was little known among the Indians and peons of Mexico. It is true a small quantity of it was imported, but it was mostly for the exclusive use of the foreigners. The populace was not acquainted with it and, in truth, cared little for it.

To counteract the pulque evil the authorities of the Diaz regime decided to introduce whiskey to the populace. As in all its affairs it proceeded in a characteristic Diaz manner. A concession was granted to a distilling company which was invited to come and manufacture its product in Mexico. The Cave Distilling Company of Kentucky, with its entire plant, was transported to the state of Chihuahua. As an inducement the Government gave the company 28 acres of land for the ridiculous sum of $600 and promised that their wares would be given wide circulation and its use greatly encouraged. Thus it was that whiskey found its way to the "haciendas" of Mexico.

Soon, however, it was discovered that whiskey failed to cure the pulque evil. Instead it aggravated the problem of drink and made it more complicated and more serious. Instead of solving the problem the Diaz authorities had plunged deeper and deeper into the inextricable depths of alcohol. They, unfortunately, failed to realize that it was a problem for students of sociology and not politicians.

Such was the state of affairs when the Constitutionalist leaders took charge of the country. The whole nation practically had been plunged to the depths of degradation by the constant overindulgence in such mind destroying drinks as pulque, mescal or tequila. Those who had succumbed to whiskey soon realized that it bore dangers equally as great as those of their native drinks, if not greater. As a result, it was quite natural that the first move to eradicate this national evil was to invoke total and absolute prohibition. It was a blind and desperate move.

In many States, controlled by the military chief, the manufacture and sale of whiskey, pulque, mescal and tequila were prohibited. The iron hand of the law took charge of the situation. Not only the civilian population, but even the members of the army, were held tight under the laws of absolute prohibition. It was a great period of experimentation which was keenly watched and studied by the authorities. All the evils resulting from total prohibition were soon discovered and the need of vital changes was made evident.

In truth the wise military chiefs realized that prohibition in reality does not prohibit and that there were thousands of ways by which the laws were being evaded. It was a state of affairs which could not be cured by drastic laws alone, but one demanding a thorough study and adjustment. In short, with Mexico it was not a case of prohibition but of temperance and education. Besides prohibition had failed.

In the final adjustment of the problem a more scientific course was pursued. The leaders who undertook to solve this problem felt that while the manufacture and sale of pulque, mescal, tequila and whiskey would have to be prohibited, a harmless substitute would have to be found for them. The people would have to be educated to the use of the milder beverages, but it was also realized by them that while beverages containing a great deal of alcohol are dangerous a certain amount of it is necessary and even healthful. In their studies of the problem they benefited a great deal by the experiences of the Scandinavian countries and Germany.

At present Mexico, while still undergoing an experimental era, seems to have a stronger grip of the drink question than it ever had before in its history. The unsanitary pulque shops have been abolished. As a substitute for their native poisonous drinks the modern beverages of beer and light wines have been introduced. And as a result a new era has dawned upon Mexico which is indicative of the success of the new state of affairs.

The influence of the new adjustment is evident in such states as Vera Cruz, Sonora, Chihuahua, Yucatan and others where they have been in existence for a longer period. It was a hard task to tear the people away from an evil that had become a tradition. They were used to the dirty pulqueria. That was the only place open for them. But the new order of things gave them a substitute even for that. Modern, attractive and sanitary drinking places, open air cafes, have been introduced in many places since the new laws were promulgated. Instead of ill smelling pulque they may indulge in a glass of light wine or a glass of beer. This has been one of the great accomplishments of the revolution in Mexico.

Unfortunately, the use of pulque and mescal has not been totally eradicated as yet. In many States, especially in the south, the people are still using it to an extent, and the laws are being evaded. But the campaign of education as well as legislation in Mexico has been started and it is but a question of time when the people there will learn to appreciate such harmless beverages as beer and light wines. The great majority have learned their great value already.

It was thus, after months of experimentation, that the authorities in Mexico realized that it was not a question of prohibition but of temperance. To-day they are slowly educating the people to the harm of pulque and whiskey, not prohibiting alone, but giving them valuable substitutes. For after all it is a question of education and Mexico will try to benefit by the errors made by other countries as well as her own.

JUAN N. AMADOR

THE death recently in Mexico of Sr. Juan N. Amador, Sub-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, removed one of the men who had taken a very prominent part in the revolution which began under Francisco Madero. The success of the movement owes much to his tireless services and patriotic devotion to his country.

Mr. Amador was a native of the State of Zacatecas, where he was born in 1873. He was educated in the capital city, was admitted to the bar and practised in Juarez as well as in the United States. Having a perfect command of the English language, he was given an important position in the United States by President Madero, and subsequently by General Carranza, acting as his confidential agent in Washington and elsewhere. It was his dearest wish that amicable relations might be completely established between the United States and Mexico, and one of the last things he said before passing away was that he regretted he could not live to see a successful termination to the negotiations then going on. Mr. Amador was always optimistic in his belief as to the result of these negotiations and refused consistently to acknowledge even the possibility of a break between the two countries, laboring tirelessly towards that end.

Incidentally, it may be added that he was a great favorite with all the foreign correspondents in the capital, telling them frankly the situation and aiding them to secure the news promptly and accurately.

AN UNOSTENTATIOUS RULER

THERE are few men in such a position as that occupied by First Chief Carranza who are so unostentatious in dress, demeanor or personal habit. His favorite costume is a perfectly plain, well fitting suit of slate colored khaki, with no insignia of rank of any kind, and which sets off his erect, stalwart figure to great advantage. With this he wears a stiff-brimmed campaign hat of the usual military style. Otherwise he occasionally wears an ordinary dark colored suit and derby hat, such as thousands of the better class of Mexican business and professional men wear.

The Chief and his family live on the Paseo de la Reforma, Mexico's principal residence thoroughfare, in a house surpassed for style by hundreds of others, about midway between the National Palace and the Castle of Chapultepec. He is an early riser, and fond of horseback riding, keeping several fine animals for this recreation. He makes a splendid appearance as an equestrian, the most spirited horse being handled with ease by him. Several times weekly those who are on the streets soon after daylight may see him, accompanied by two or three of his staff, enjoying the invigorating morning air. In passing from his residence to his headquarters in the National Palace, or vice versa (which he does four and sometimes six times daily), he uses a limousine which has seen considerable wear and tear, and is usually accompanied only by his private secretary. There is never any guard, no secret service men to go with him, and as he passes to [illegible] streets no one who did not know [illegible] any indication of any kind t [illegible] than some unostentatious p [illegible] business man going about h [illegible] On occasion he mingles freely [illegible] is not infrequently hustled a [illegible] most mixed gatherings, yet [illegible] necessary to be accompanied by a guard or to have the people kept at a distance. He is especially friendly to women and children of the poorer class, and many such have had occasion to revere him for his kindness and readiness to listen to complaints, and to rectify them.

When remonstrated with by friends for "taking chances" as they express it, he has said: "Why should I take precautions or be afraid? If my enemies wish to kill me, they will."

THE minting of coins of the various subsidiary denominations has been commenced by the Government and is expected to aid in alleviating the currency situation. During the revolution several of the States have minted coins of their own which have become great curiosities among numismatists. Some of the early issues of postage stamps made by the Constitutionalists have also become very rare and are highly valued.

THE youngest soldier in the British army is twelve years of age and has recently been honored with special mention by King George. American militiamen are comparing notes and find their youngest soldier to be anywhere from 16 to 18 years of age. During the revolution in Mexico any number of boys offered themselves as volunteers who had not reached twelve years. And they made brave soldiers and good fighters.

JUAN AND JESUS AND POMPOSO

BY HAROLD WALKER

As recently as August twelfth, this year, the Saturday Evening Post stated: "The problem of Mexico is essentially an Indian Question." To the mind of American residents of Mexico, who love their chosen home, this statement always produces an unfortunate misapprehension, for the Indian of Mexico is the least of Mexico's problems. He is not a problem. He may present the elements of what was once a problem, but that problem has been solved.

Our Spanish friends in Mexico heckle us with: "You call America civilized! You killed off your Indians, you Saxons, while we in Mexico let them live and multiply." As argument with most Spaniards is not productive, we let it go at that.

The fact is, the English, Irish and Americans pioneering through the United States, came in contact with two distinct races of Indians. In the East and most of the West they met, and fought, the hook-nosed Nomad—and the hook-nose fought back bravely and cleverly; yet there are more hook-noses alive in the United States today than when Columbus landed. But in the Southwest the leather-legged pioneer and trail-maker met another sort of Indian, whom he did not fight. That sort is the Indian of Mexico.

Up the headwaters of the Rio Grande, and on the Mesas of Arizona, the American trailmaker met a race of little, farming Indians, snub-nosed, using a musical scale exactly like our own, home-loving, hard-working, hardy, long-suffering, and hospitable to a fault; as different a people from the Hook-nose as the Swede is from the Italian. The little women, with legs swathed in buckskin, came out from houses built of 'dobe with unhewn logs for roof and translucent windows of gypsum, bearing *tortillas* and peaches and melons on burned-clay platters for the stranger, while they edged away from his horse, which they feared. They made blankets and clothing of wool. Their voices were soft. On the Mesas they depended on the springs for their very life, and to propitiate the Spring God, they held each year, as they still hold, a Sacred Dance, in which a prayer for water was breathed into snakes, messengers of the underground divinity. They did not fight the trailmaker. They were "good Indians." The trailmaker, therefore, did not fight them. He and his followers respected Hopi's land holdings and perfected their titles. They sent him tools and bored him wells. They deprived him only of liquor.

With the same frank hospitality do the Indians of Mexico treat the American and Englishman—the "gringo." The difference between Mexican and Pueblo Indians is, that the Mexicans have Biblical and classical names: Juan—Jesus—Pomposo—Aquiles. The Spaniards introduced the "cultura" that made this change.

The forbears of Juan and Jesus and Pomposo treated the Conquistadores with the same hospitality the Hopis showed the American. But the Conquistador *was* an adventurer. He was frankly in search of gold. Whereas the American took Hopi in as a friend, and respected his land and his irrigation ditches, the Spaniard made a slave of Juan, and granted Juan's lands to adventurer favorites, who sold Juan with the land. We made a free unhampered human being out of Hopi. They made a slave out of Juan.

So Juan has his shrewd suspicion of the Gachupin. As the Spaniard, after Independence, was followed by avaricious Mexicans of Spanish blood, who exploited Juan just about as their Spanish fathers exploited him, Juan's suspicious nature grew. But break that down, and Juan is Hopi, through and through, with his loyalty, his keen humor, his music, his charity, his thrift (which Juan dissembles), and his kindliness (which he is ashamed to show). Juan is every bit as industrious as Hopi, and like Hopi, loves his home, which he calls his "tierra."

In *congregaciones* of Mexican Indians, there is usually one man who speaks Spanish. Sit with him under the stars, and ask him of his People. He will tell of the Aztecs, or their local contemporaries, and their fathers, the Toltecs, which means the Builders who made the Pyramids, and drive him back and back and he will tell you that, 'way back before then, the Fathers of the Toltecs came South on a long march, from the extreme North. One once told me "from the extreme North where the Snake is King." Archeologists have determined that there were three such immigrations to Mexico.

And the Hopi boy home from school at Keam's Canyon, will tell you in halting English of three times—'way back—before the 'Bellicanos or the Castellano priests came—when the Spring God sulked—and there was no water—and the tribe went South over the Flat Sands.

Juan, Jesus and Pomposo are Hopi, Acoma and Zuni; but they have three centuries of slavery and one of spoliation between their real nature and what they are now. The first impression they make is of furtiveness; but let them see that when they work for you, you work *with* them; and that they get one hundred per cent of the wages you agreed upon; and that you keep your word, and are *honra'o*, and advance them when they show merit, and reward them the same as American workers for equal work, and they are your friends, to an extreme that you don't conceive; up here where the trolley whisks co-workers apart every night.

"Why do you want to go back to Mexico?" ask our American friends. Sometimes we wonder; but when we search our souls, it is clear. Juan, the mozo; Jesus, the boy who started running errands and whom we now leave in charge of the whole business when we are told to go; and Pomposo, modest and humble, but a tiger to fight for the things put in his care; these are the ones who call. Under the devoted care of old Pànfila, brown, clean and loving, our children lisped their first words—soft Spanish words, with staccato Indian names for the little animals and reptiles. Pànfila calls us, too. She may be ill, or starving from her everlasting charity, or even dying; but she won't molest us with her own troubles.

This is the sort of people that make the heart of Mexico. Improvement is in them. Benito Juarez, Mexico's greatest President, whom Seward called the biggest statesman of his day, was a little brown Juan. The world's leading petroleum geologist of to-day is a Mexican, proud of his pure Indian blood—remember, Pueblo, not hook-nosed Indian blood. You find them everywhere, rising, rising, true to their friends and working as you never worked in your life. To be a friend of Juan and Jesus and Pomposo is a privilege. To be with them is a joy. You think Americans have philosophical humor? And homely wit? You don't know Juan.

Juan is suffering. Jesus has to be roughly encouraged to make his way upward. Pomposo is still imprisoned in an awful suspicion of others, and won't tell you where his unproductive savings are hidden. They are all underdogs. They are the grist in the mill of Mexican politics, and it is they who pay for it all. Hopi, Zuni and Acoma are free and independent, and till their own fields, which they irrigated long before Brigham Young went to Utah. They are happy. They are good and reliable citizens. Yet abject Juan and Jesus and Pomposo are the same folk.

The Indian Problem of Mexico was solved in the United States. It has been solved in parts of Mexico I can name, where Americans have applied the same solution as in Arizona. The material is there for a great race. Give it a chance, that's all.

Our method of settling whatever of problem appeared in the Pueblo Indian is one of the things of which we may be proud. We simply respected his landholdings, making his lands inalienable; we helped him with tools and seed; we helped him with his vital water question, boring wells that give water even when the Spring God doesn't get the Snake's message; we kept liquor strictly away from him. We gave him good schools. He is a Man.

So with Juan and Jesus and Pomposo. Get them back on the land, but do more than that. Land alone will only starve them. They must have seed and cattle and tools and food, until the crop is harvested. Help them to get these. Then stop the liquor traffic that the landowners—not the Americans, let me say—encouraged, to blind Juan to his state and kill his ambition. Then make his land inalienable, and there's no more Indian question, and no more Mexican question than what comes from selfish ambition.

For Juan is Pueblo Indian, and the Pueblo Indian is no Problem.

Meantime, Juan and Jesus and Pomposo will live on, joking; joking their own misfortune and maiming; joking cant and hypocrisy; joking egotism of others and themselves; and they will die joking, too. For the finish of Juan, Jesus and Pomposo, is always tragic, and they meet it with the heroism of Hopi and Zuni, which is heroism far and away above what we unsentimentalize with our phrase "dead game."

"THE true test of culture is a sympathetic understanding of the viewpoint of an alien people." When Emerson said this he might well have had in view the relations between the United States and Mexico. Each should seek to understand the viewpoint of the other.

THE national constitution provides that foreigners who have Mexican children (children born of a Mexican mother), and those who acquire real estate in the country, automatically become Mexican citizens unless they expressly declare their intention to retain their nationality of origin.

THE permanent capital of the State of Sinaloa is Culiacan and not Mazatlan, as many have supposed from some recent newspaper publications. And Culiacan, by the way, is ancient—how ancient there is no record to show. But it was an Aztec town long before the city of Mexico was founded on the spot, pointed out by prophecy, where an eagle holding a serpent in its beak should be found, perched upon a cactus on a rock surrounded by water.

GENERAL FUNSTON is endeavoring to regulate the exaggerative propensities of the newspaper correspondents on the border. The writers with the regular army are subject to very severe restrictions and penalties. Two years ago, when the American war department regulations in this respect were made public, the First Chief was urged to adopt them in regard to the foreign correspondents whose respect for the truth was in many cases somewhat conspicuous by its absence, but after careful consideration he declined, on the ground that they were altogether too drastic in their requirements.

WANTED—AN OIL MARKET

Mexico with a Potential Productivity of One Million Barrels Daily Is Selling Only Six Per Cent of Her Possible Output

WITH wells the most productive in all the oil fields of the world, and a capacity to furnish the nations with something more than a million barrels of fuel oil every day in the year, the petroleum industry of the Republic of Mexico is in sad need of a market. To-day within the oil areas of Mexico adjacent to the broad sea highways of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic Ocean, there are flowing wells which can contribute to the world's supply of crude oil the greatest amount of any petroleum bearing region on earth, and yet out of this vast resource, owing to the difficulties of obtaining sea transportation and to the want of a near by market, only about 63,000 barrels per day of the product are going into commerce, and this at a season when the demand for gasoline is so great that in the cities of the United States this most necessary product is selling at from 22 to 25 cents per gallon—ten cents higher than normal—and also when crude oil and partially refined oils are supplanting coal in the bunkers of the great liners, aboard the warships, in the tenders of locomotives, and in industries of every character everywhere.

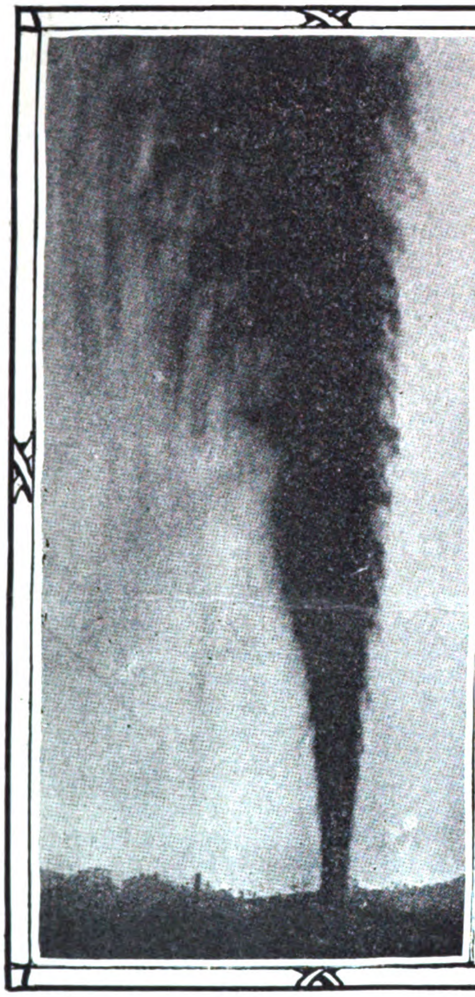
Oil deposits extend throughout the plains of Mexico from the mountains to the gulf coast. Their most abundant concentration is in the neighborhood of the ports of Tuxpan and Tampico. Here the oil exists in unmeasured volume within 15 to 25 miles of the sea ready at hand for the great ocean conveyors to bear it to every port of the globe.

The question which confronts Mexico to-day is how to bring the world to Mexico's coast line for its supply of oil. Of the various oil deposits of the world, Pennsylvania and Ohio, Texas, the Trans-Baikal Region, California, and all the others, Mexico, while leading in the volume and readiness of production, at the same time furnishes a low grade of oil, the lowest, in point of fact. Mexican oil is cheap. There is little if any paraffine in the product, which for all practical and commercial purposes consists of 60 to 85 per cent of asphaltum, and a maximum of 8 per cent of gasoline, with the remaining percentage taken up by various by-products in insufficient quantities to warrant their consideration except when refining operations are conducted on the very largest scale. It is for this reason that the oil business of Mexico will forever be a big business. In it there is small room for the small producer. The Mexican oil is heavy oil. The business of handling heavy oil must always be heavy business.

Of the growth of the oil producing business in the Republic statistics already disclose that within a single decade Mexico has jumped from a negligible factor in the oil commerce of the world to the third position among the nations. This has been accomplished in the face of the last five or more years of almost unremitting revolution and in the face of wars and battlings at the very gateways of her most productive oil properties. Even in the face of these hindrances to-day the oil production of Mexico is approximately seven per cent of the world's entire production, and her potential production is nearly equal to the actual production of the world. In other words, with every well in operation and the daily supply of Mexican oil pouring itself uninterruptedly into the world's commerce, the neighbor Republic can fill almost fifty per cent of the demand of the entire industrial, commercial and transportation world.

Beginning in 1906 with a production of less than half a million barrels, the Mexican output increased with such rapidity that in 1914 the total was 25,725,403 barrels, while the production held under valve for lack of market was over 230,000,000 barrels. Even in the face of revolution, capital from the United States, Great Britain and the Netherlands, to say nothing of considerable sums invested in purely Mexican enterprises, has flowed freely into the oil measures of the Gulf Coast Region. It is estimated that American investments in the oil regions aggregate $175,000,000, while there is reputed to be more than $75,000,000 of British and Dutch capital also engaged. In other words, a quarter of a billion dollars has been placed in the venture which sooner or later will produce the fuel of the modern industrial world.

As an example of what Mexico's petroleum supply means, the following account of the opening up of Cerro Azul No. 4, the greatest oil well in the world, is taken from the records of one of the American companies holding title to one of the major oil fields of the Republic.



Cerro Azul Well

Oil Saturated Workmen After Closing Well

Cerro Azul No. 4, the world's greatest oil well, was brought in on February 10, 1916, by the Huasteca Petroleum Company.

It is located 85 miles south of Tampico in the center of a cup-shaped valley of 52,000 acres all owned by the Huasteca Company.

Measured flow of this remarkable well for the 24 hours just before it was closed in was above 260,000 barrels. Registered pressure now stands at 1,035 pounds per square inch. The output is good-grade petroleum of 21° Beaume, free from sediment and water.

Spectacular circumstances attended the bringing in of this gusher. Gas came with such force when cap rock was pierced that it threw out the tools, stripped off the valve, and destroyed the derrick. A day later it shot oil into the air to a measured height of 600 feet. It flowed more than 1,000,000 barrels of petroleum before it was brought under control on February 17.

(Concluded on page 14)

THE CURRENCY QUESTION

First Revolution in Mexico That Was Ever Prosecuted Through the Use of Paper Money—Difficult Situation Handled With Skill and Foresight

FOR the first time in the history of Mexico a revolution has been carried to a successful conclusion which began without money or munitions, which was prosecuted on the basis of paper carrying no promise of redemption and founded solely on the word of the revolutionists. While there have been numerous so-called revolutions in this country during the hundred and more years just past, these have in reality been nothing but phases of the same revolution with the same foundation—the right of self-government, separation of Church and State, education of the masses, restoration of lands to the rightful owners, abolition of peonage, etc. Always on one side have been found the oppressors of the people, always on the other those who fought for freedom. And for the first time in the long century of conflict there is now a reasonable assurance that the objects so long fought for and which have cost so much in blood and treasure, will be secured. This culminating feature of the prolonged revolution was as stated carried to success by the use of paper currency. Always heretofore there has been available sufficient coin for such purposes. But when Carranza and his handful of a scant hundred men began their opposition to the usurper Huerta they had no resources of any kind. The first money that purchased the first weapons and munitions was loaned by a prominent land owner of the State of Coahuila and for several months the progress of the revolution was hindered by the difficulty of obtaining what have so aptly been described as "the sinews of war."

Driven by necessity the revolutionists began the issuance of paper currency and with its aid the revolution was prosecuted to final success. All told, it was estimated that some seven hundred millions of this paper was issued, of a nominal par value in American gold of just half that amount, but of a real value as measured by the exchange rate of never more than sixteen to seventeen cents to the dollar, while for many months immediately prior to the culminating success the putative value was as low as five and finally ran down to no more than one or two cents. It should be understood however that while this was the nominal value as established by those having exchange to sell, the actual value as measured by its purchasing power was much greater. The low apparent value was due almost entirely to the work of speculators and so-called bankers who are accused of a deliberate attempt to discredit the new government and impede its operations by confusing the monetary situation.

As soon as it became apparent that the Constitutionalists had triumphed over all but a few scattering bands of opponents and that only a short time must elapse before complete peace would be restored, the Government addressed itself to the various tasks that confronted it. Prominent among these was the currency question. After much study of the methods that had been pursued in other countries regarding similar problems, and of the manner in which the currency could be stabilized without being too great a burden upon the people, a novel and unique plan was evolved.

It was decided to retire the entire first issue, known as the "Vera Cruz paper" from having been printed in that city, and in its place issue a new series to be known as "infalsificable," or non-counterfeitable—both because of the superior workmanship of the steel plates and the high quality of the paper used. In retiring the old paper its enforced circulation was ended at a certain date, July 1st, 1916, but its receipt by the government, the railroads, telegraph, etc., was extended until the first of the coming year.

Holders of the paper were instructed to turn over to the government before August 1st (since extended for another month), all in their hands, receiving receipts therefor, the authorities promising to begin its redemption on October 1st at the rate of five cents American gold on the peso. As the paper had for months been exchanged for as low as half a cent to two or three cents to the peso, this rate promised a fair profit to the holders and the government could not be accused of evading its obligations. Several hundred millions had by August 1st been taken in by the Government in payment of dues and was destroyed. By the first of the year very little if any will remain in the hands of the people. Large amounts of the Vera Cruz paper have also been exchanged by the Government for the new issue and at once destroyed.

The new paper is limited to a total of five hundred millions. While this at first glance might seem a large amount, it is really not so. The exchange value as established and maintained by the Government is ten cents American gold and twenty cents Mexican specie to the peso. The total issue thus represents a gold value of $50,000,000, not large for so rich a country as Mexico. It is not all emitted at once, but is being gradually paid out by the Government for salaries and other public expenses, the emission being limited to fifty millions monthly. Behind this paper is a specie reserve sufficient to maintain the gold value established by the Government, and which is constantly added to by the collection of taxes, a large portion of which are required to be paid in coin.

The only other paper currency that Mexico has is that issued by some of the banks. This is protected by a legal specie reserve of fifty per cent of the amount in circulation, but the Constitutionalist Government has been very lenient. The law specifically provides that the bank notes must be redeemed upon presentation, refusal to do so being ground for throwing the institution into bankruptcy. None of the banks of issue has redeemed its notes for a lengthy period, yet the Government has refrained from executing the law. Several institutions were found to have issued notes far in excess of their specie reserves, and their doors were closed, but those having the legal amount of coin in their vaults were allowed to continue operations, even though they refused to obey the law regarding redemption. In normal times these bank notes were worth fifty cents American gold on the peso—as is all Mexican money, coin or paper. But they circulate at less than half that value owing to the inability of the holders to obtain specie for them.

At the present time as for some months past the receipts of the Government are much in excess of the expenditures, and by the time the entire volume of new paper shall have been issued, it is regarded as assured that there will be sufficient reserve in the treasury to maintain the established exchange value of the whole amount.

A SELF-SUPPORTING COUNTRY

Every Want of the Human Race Can Be Supplied from its Products—A Wealth of Resource and Capability Unequalled by Any Other Country

SOME noted traveler (was it Baron Von Humboldt) said that Mexico alone of all the countries on the face of the globe contained or was capable of producing within its limits everything needed by humankind, whether necessaries or luxuries; that a wall could be built around it completely shutting off all intercourse with the outside world and preventing the importation of any article of any kind whatsoever, yet every want could within a brief period be supplied from within. All that was necessary was to make use of the abundant and varied resource at hand —more abundant and more varied than found in a like area anywhere else in the world.

And this is the absolute truth. There is nothing in the way of agricultural or mineral resource that is of use to mankind that is not to be found here or that cannot be produced, and usually with far less labor and risk than elsewhere. Of agricultural products, Mexico yields in abundance those of the tropics, the sub-tropics and the temperate zones. Of grain—corn, wheat, barley, oats, rice and other products grow in profusion and of excellent quality when properly selected and tended. Of vegetables—what is there that is grown in any other portion of the world that is not produced here in profusion? The soil and the climate best adapted for each variety can be found in Mexico and not infrequently within comparatively narrow limits. Since in a few hours one can pass from the heat of the tropics to the region close to perpetual snow, it follows that the products peculiar to the various zones are all to be found here in close proximity.

Of fruits—the list is as long as that of the vegetables, and includes those grown on plant, bush, vine, shrub or tree in any and every country under the sun—north, south, east or west.

Of textiles, whether vegetable or animal—everything used by mankind anywhere in the world is either produced here or can be with reasonable effort.

In mineral wealth—it is conceded without argument or specialization that no portion of the world equals Mexico in variety or extent of product.

It is the intention of THE REVIEW to keep these facts before its readers and in each issue call attention to some especial resource of the country, which holds out promise of profit to those undertaking its exploitation and that too without the assumed necessity, as in the past, of "cheap" labor as an essential. If there is any country under the sun where there is no such necessity it is Mexico. And this too will be one of the points that will be emphasized in THE REVIEW.

ANY person, male or female, foreign or native, seventeen years of age or over, in Yucatan, may apply to the government and receive an allotment of land sufficient to supply, when properly cultivated, an ample livelihood. The government will also loan money for the necessary equipment, long time being allowed for its payment. The person receiving the land cannot mortgage or sell it, but can will it to his heirs under similar conditions. A pretty good example?

THE MAN OF THE HOUR IN YUCATAN

A Personal Appreciation of General Salvador Alvarado, Governor of Yucatan and Military Commander of the Forces in the South East

BY GEORGE MINER

THERE are no beggars in Yucatan.
There is no poverty in Yucatan.
There is no disease in Yucatan.
There is no drunkenness in Yucatan.
There is very little vice in Yucatan.
And there is hardly any crime in Yucatan.

This condition of affairs has existed for less than a year. It did not just happen. It was brought about by conscientious and persistent endeavor. A few years ago Merida, the capital of the State, was as wicked a city as you could find in all Latin-America.

This wonderful change, this regeneration to normal life and clean living, was effected very largely by the efforts of one man, General Salvador Alvarado, the Governor of the State, with the sincere help of a few very able advisers. From a purely humanitarian point of view every right thinking man should applaud what General Alvarado has done for that big section of our sister Republic.

Yucatan is a sun drenched, wind swept land, where the natives are peaceful, honest and hard working. They are Maya Indians, descendants of one of the oldest civilizations in the world. General Alvarado came to them a little more than a year ago at the head of a conquering army and set about restoring order from chaos. He did not start in to exterminate and kill. On the contrary his policy was to amalgamate and educate. He made the cause of the peon his own. Although not one of them by birth, for General Alvarado comes from Sonora, he was for them. The most humble peon could have access to this Governor at any time and tell his story. The rich man and aristocrat was kept waiting. The rich man could afford the time. The poor man could not. Naturally the rich men and the aristocrats—many of them, at least—do not like General Alvarado. But that's an even break. General Alvarado does not like the rich men and the aristocrats, so there is no love lost.

It is a great pleasure to me as a loyal American citizen to have this opportunity to tell what I know about Governor Alvarado. Last winter I spent some weeks in Yucatan and became well acquainted with him. I accompanied him on a tour of the peninsula and noted how the villagers and farmers and laborers regarded him, and if a ruler was ever beloved by the people he governs that man is Salvador Alvarado. I have now just returned from a second trip to Yucatan, where I had an opportunity of studying him still further.

I don't wish to appear too eulogistic, but I can honestly say that the more I see of Salvador Alvarado and investigate the work he is doing the more I respect and admire him.

He calls himself a little man with a big job.

Well, he is not a little man by any means, either mentally or physically, but he certainly has a big job. Thank heaven he is getting away with it. Very few of my countrymen realize how important it is that General Alvarado should keep Yucatan in a state of peaceful production. We of the United States are absolutley dependent on Yucatan. If we did not get their henequen to make into binder twine we could not harvest our wheat crop, and if that happened a large part of the world would pretty near starve to death. We need the product of Yucatan a lot more than Yucatan needs us, although they get most of their food and manufactured materials from our concerns.

There are some half dozen men around Senor Carranza who loom big in brains and enterprise. Among this half dozen Gen. Alvarado is conspicuous. If Senor Carranza could find men like General Alvarado to govern all the States in the Republic, Mexico's troubles would at once be all over with and she would burst out with prosperity like a skyrocket.

The first time I saw General Alvarado he was flat on his back in bed. He was just recovering from an operation and was as helpless as any human being well could be. But even in that weak condition he was absoutely unguarded. He occupied an unpretentious house out on Fifty-ninth street in Merida and there was not a sentinel or an armed guard to be seen anywhere. In an adjoining room two or three young officers were rattling typewriters or clicking off messages on the telegraph keys. The Governor was stretched out on a cheap American bed which could not have cost more than twenty dollars. Instead of being clothed in silk pajamas or a fine linen bathrobe he wore an ordinary khaki undress uniform coat. He was dictating to two stenographers, one on each side of the bed.

General Salvador Alvarado, Governor of Yucatan

There were no rugs on the floor even. The furniture was of the most ordinary kind. Of course, if he chose, he could have had the most luxurious surroundings to be imagined, but he is not that kind of a man. There was no sign of luxury whatever, hardly ordinary comfort.

I shall never forget one of the first things he said to me. It was an educational and philosophical classic.

"I won't spend a cent of the State's money for cartridges," said he, "but I am willing to spend unlimited money for education. I have more school teachers than soldiers in Yucatan."

He spoke the absolute truth. There are five hundred more school teachers than there are troops in his State. Some of these teachers he has imported, many of them from the United States, for school teachers were an almost unknown quantity in Yucatan until he went there. The little teaching that was done was by the priests, and that was a teaching which was extraordinarily limited in its scope. The little churches at the thousands of haciendas which were closed by the revolution, Governor Alvarado has not allowed to lie idle. He has turned them into schools.

I have visited many of them myself and seen the wonderful progress those little Indian children are making on the great highway of knowledge. I have seen little black eyed and bright eyed kids doing problems in geometry, and others, who a year ago could not read a word, studying the history of the world. Not an expurgated and mangled history, but a history of the world from the beginning of creation, with particular reference given to the development of the United States.

Never in the boasted little red school houses of New England nor in the elaborate educational system of Germany have I seen students take more interest in their work than do these little Maya Indian children in Yucatan. So I am sure that Alvarado has gone to the right root of things when he began his conquest of Yucatan by educating the coming generation. For that matter he does not stop at the children. He makes the grown-up people go to school on Sundays, and so those clean and kindly and hard working peons who cut the henequen leaves so deftly are now cutting into the alphabet as well.

General Alvarado is only thirty-six years old. Before the revolution he was a merchant up in Sonora. Then he took the field and suddenly developed into a military genius. He it was who captured the city of Puebla with only 14,000 men, and subsequently all of Yucatan with half that number of soldiers.

While his family was a good one it was also a poor one and he had only a meager education as a boy. So as he grew up he educated himself and is today a well read man and posted on philosophy, science, art, [illegible] and political economy. He is [illegible] thinker and goes to the bottom of [illegible] he tackles.

He speaks English very well and with hardly any Spanish accent. In this he is self taught also.

"I learned your language," he said, "not from text books, but by reading American newspapers with the aid of a Spanish-English dictionary. This I found to be a good way, for the news in the papers interested me and kept me keyed up to my study."

In personal appearance General Alvarado is of medium height and rather thick set. He has coal black hair and mustache and large brown eyes that are very expressive and look right through you. His head is well modeled and his forehead square. A glance shows that he is a serious minded man with lofty ideals.

He never laughs unless there is something to laugh at, but he always has a smile for a child.

Take it all in all this man who captured Yucatan, drove out the corrupt officials, freed the slaves, stopped drunkenness and vice and brought peace, prosperity and good times to a large section of Mexico is a pretty handsome specimen of a human being.

For all that he does not deck himself in fine feathers. The last time I saw him, only a few weeks ago, he had just finished dinner, or the mid-day meal, whatever it may be called. He was without coat, collar or necktie. He sat at a bare board table on a wooden bench. The only decoration or touch of luxury was a big bunch of roses stuck in an old coffee pot.

If he had wanted damask and cut glass and eggshell china he would only have had to snap his fingers to have had it. But he did not want it. He cares nothing for the showy and languorous side of life. His only pleasure is in work and his only ambition is to be an ideal democrat.

I suspect he has achieved that ambition without knowing it, for if there is a democratic Governor of any State in the world Salvador Alvarado is the man.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS

Based on the Method Followed in the United States, But With Some Essential Differences

THE constitution and form of Government of Mexico are based to a large extent upon those of the United States, with some exceptions, notably as to the manner of selecting the President and Vice-President. These were formerly elected for a period of four years and they were eligible to re-election. But under the constitutional amendment adopted after President Madero's installation the term of office was fixed at six years and neither official was eligible to re-election for the succeeding term. "No re-election" was one of the battle cries of the Maderistas in their campaign, and this was not the least of the pledges that appealed to popular sentiment.

The National Congress, like that of the United States, is composed of two houses. Members of the lower house are chosen by popular vote and their term of office is two years in length, as in the United States. Each 60,000 inhabitants or fraction over 20,000 in a Congressional district is entitled to a representative.

The upper house is composed of two members from each State, as in the United States, including two from the Federal District—corresponding to the District of Columbia. They are chosen by the State legislatures and not by popular vote. The term of office for members of the upper house is four years, half of the membership being replaced every two years.

The qualifications for the Presidency are that a candidate must be a citizen of Mexico by birth, that he must have completed thirty-five years of age, and that he *must belong to no ecclesiastic order.*

Instead of choosing an electoral college equal in number to the combined membership of both houses of Congress, as in the United States, the entire country is divided into municipal or electoral districts, containing from 1,000 to 2,000 voters, each district selecting one elector. In the last Presidential election, the one in which Madero was chosen, something like 1,200,000 votes were cast, and a little over 19,000 electors were chosen, who cast a practically unanimous vote for him. This gave rise to the curious and oft repeated erroneous statement that in the entire population of the country of over 15,000,000 people, only about 20,000 took interest enough in the matter to cast their votes, whereas the fact was that the total vote cast was one of the largest in the Republic's history, it being claimed that this was the first really free election that had been held in a generation or more.

The electors thus chosen meet in each State and the result of their balloting is certified to the National Congress, which as in the United States examines the returns, and certifies the election of the candidates receiving the highest number of votes, who are thereupon inducted into office upon the date fixed by law.

In this connection, there have been many reports circulated to the effect that it was the intention of the First Chief to resign his position as chief executive some time prior to the Presidential election, in order to become a candidate for the Chief Magistracy, in alleged compliance with the law prohibiting re-election. There is no legal reason for this. General Carranza is *not* the President of the Republic, but merely the head of the military forces. He has at all times been careful to eschew the title of Provisional President, making it a special point to request that he be not so designated by writers and correspondents. His actual title is "First Chief (better translated Commander-in-Chief) of the Constitutionalist Army and Depository of the Executive Power of the Republic of Mexico." If he should take the action that has so frequently been declared by unauthorized persons to be his intention, it would not be because there is any law requiring it, but the only purpose would be to avoid any possible ground for objecting to his candidacy for this reason. He is, under the law, as free to become a candidate for the Presidency, while still keeping command of the forces, as any other person in the Republic.

In connection with the Presidency another fallacious idea has been advanced—that it is contrary to law for any army officer to become a candidate. There is no foundation for this notion.

"PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE"

BY DR. HENRY ALLEN TUPPER

IT requires a miracle of magnanimity before passing judgment upon a man's motives and methods, to put yourself in his position, to consider all the circumstances and sincerely ask the question: What would I have done if placed as he was?

Human nature is naturally self-centered, and egotism not only inflates self, but, consciously or unconsciously, misjudges and injures others. Destruction is a much easier task than construction. A monkey in an art studio; an elephant in a china shop, and an imbecile playing with a match in a student's library, can commit ravages within an hour that could not be replaced by the genius of centuries.

The futile and fatal tendency to decry and destroy is not confined to irresponsible weaklings or inhuman brutes, but strange indeed, men of supposed character and culture, of useful life and labors, have been known to be afflicted with this proneness to act unjustly to others and to belittle the beneficial service of their fellows, when their own ambitious ends seem to be endangered.

The greed for personal success or wealth oftentimes blindfolds the eyes to the vision of another's high ideals and noble purposes. If we had been successful in putting ourselves in his place, and if we had been inspired by his spirit, we would doubtless have reached different conclusions and the course of our acts would have been along other channels. Sudden greatness and glory before applauding crowds, reveal real and dormant character in a strange fashion. In his quiet, useful life a man has been known to be wise, dignified and conservative; but the moment he was uplifted upon a high pedestal his words, manner and thought underwent a complete transformation, and he who appeared at one time to be the incarnation of justice, in his deeds and deliverances, now allows the scale of equity to dip only selfward, because of the weight of his vaunting ambition and blinding prejudice.

Yes—try to put yourself in the other man's place. In doing so you may sacrifice material ends, you may disappoint self pride, you may lose earth's gold and glory, but in putting the crown on the brow that deserves it, you enthrone your conscience and you become a king and a conqueror.

One of the most notable opportunities for the practice of the injunction noted—"Put yourself in his place"—has been afforded by the Mexican situation of the past six years. Never was the impartial observance of this idea so much needed, and it may be said never was it so completely ignored by the great majority. If those intimately concerned on both sides would only have endeavored to put themselves in the others' place, to regard the situation from the viewpoint of the other, there would have been far less misunderstanding and misapprehension.

Let Americans try, if they can—and many have done and are doing so—to get the viewpoint of the Mexicans. Let them in their minds reverse conditions. Let them in a word put themselves in the place of the Mexicans and imagine themselves treated as have been their neighbors, during their long continued struggle for liberty. Let them imagine themselves as threatened with unjustifiable outside interference—as they were—when they were fighting the battle of liberty with an expenditure of life, blood and treasure, with all its inevitable accompaniment of individual suffering and wrong, a thousand times greater than anything that Mexico has presented. Let them consider this, and let them come to an unbiased and unprejudiced conclusion.

THE REVIEW feels sure that if this is done, not on one side alone but on both, a friendly and thoroughly reasonable as well as entirely just solution of the points at issue will be found. And no army would be needed on either side to reach and enforce that solution. EDITOR REVIEW

"BENIGHTED MEXICO"

THIS is the title of a book that has just been issued by Mr. Randolph Wellford Smith, and which is described as an "absolutely impartial" statement of conditions in that country, which "may make history." The author alleges that he is a "trained journalist" who has been a "deep student . . . of Mexico's many sociological and humanitarian problems."

Perusal of the work discloses one prominent fact—that Mr. R. W. Smith has never been in Mexico, has never met any of the revolutionary leaders, and knows nothing at first hand of actual Mexican conditions. Or if he may have made a personal study of men and conditions, he has succeeded most skillfully in concealing that fact. On the other hand, the book presents indisputable evidence to any trained writer of being a mere rehash of the most ultra sensational and untruthful newspaper reports regarding Mexico that have appeared during the last six years, as well as a most careful avoidance of anything that might serve to disclose the real nature of those reports and to convey a truthful conception of actual conditions. It would require a volume fully as large as Mr. Smith's work to point out the many errors of statement and conclusion, and it is not worth the effort.

"Benighted Mexico" may be commended to the attention of all who desire to bolster up their predetermined and erroneous ideas regarding that country. But those who wish to obtain even a modicum of truth in that connection should give it no heed.

(Continued from page 11)

WANTED—AN OIL MARKET

The gas came without warning and with a terrific roar. Workmen were struck by debris as they ran for their lives, but fortunately none were injured. The drill bit, which weighed two tons, landed 125 feet from the well—imbedding itself 20 feet in the ground within three yards of the photographer who was making moving pictures of the scene.

The roar of escaping gas and oil was like the continuous discharge of cannon. During the entire time that the well was being brought under control, the noise was such that the men could not hear one another speak within a half mile of it.

It is estimated that 50,000,000 cubic feet of gas escaped before much oil made its appearance. Suction created by the upward rush of this vast column drew in fresh air, so that the men could work without discomfort.

For two miles around the well the country was saturated with petroleum as the column, which ranged in height from 500 to 600 feet, was swayed by the breezes. Bright sunshine by day and a full moon at night made the scene one of marvelous beauty.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

THE salaries of all employes of the Government of the State of Campeche were increased one hundred per cent on the first of August.

IN preparation for adequate and impartial taxation of lands, one of the principles of the revolution, the First Chief has issued a decree calling upon all land owners to prepare statements showing their property in real estate.

AT the instance of the National University and under the direction of the Department of Belles Artes, the National holiday, September 16th, was celebrated with Olympic games, floral sports, and various patriotic ceremonies.

THE new French Minister to Mexico, Joseph F. Couget, has presented his credentials to the First Chief and assumed his duties. The Norwegian Minister, Michael Stromile, is now the Dean of the Mexican diplomatic corps.

THE government of the State of Chihuahua is urging foreigners to return to their mining and other properties and resume operations in order to give employment to the idle peons. Assurances are given that they will be protected in every way in their enterprises.

SR. JOSE BERMUDEZ CASTRO has been appointed Minister from Mexico to Guatemala. The relations between the two republics are now upon a friendly basis. For some time there had been more or less misunderstanding, owing to the efforts of enemies of Mexico to foster distrust and unfriendliness. This has happily been ended and cordial relations established.

A NOVEL feature of the Mexican postal service is the publishing daily of all letters received in the general delivery for that day. The addresses are typewritten, the letters numbered and the lists are posted conspicuously, allowing free access by the public. The convenience of such a system need not be enlarged upon.

A PLAN has already been inaugurated by which soldiers who desire to do so have allotted to them lands for cultivation. While a portion of a given force are thus employed, the others remain on duty, and they take turns in carrying on farming operations. When the time comes for the disbandment of a large portion of the army, these soldiers and their families will take possession of the lands upon which they have been employed.

UNDER instructions of Sub-Secretary Pastor Rouaix, in charge of the Department of Public Works, Colonization and Industry, work is to be commenced at once drilling petroleum wells for the Government. The site selected is the oil region about Tampico, and it is intended to do considerable development work there on behalf of the Government, which is a large consumer of oil, both on the railways and in other directions.

AUTHENTIC figures regarding the foreign population of Mexico as regards different nationalities are difficult to obtain. In 1900 a total of 57,508 foreigners were reported in the Republic, of whom in round numbers 16,000 were Americans, 16,000 Spaniards, and the rest divided among different nationalities, a total of 2,834 Japanese and Chinese being included. In 1906 the number of Japanese and Chinese was given at 3,750. The census of 1910 gave approximately 100,000 foreigners of all nationalities, including 30,000 Americans, 20,000 Spaniards, 5,000 each of English, Germans and French, the remaining 35,000 being divided among Italians, Syrians or "Arabis" (who are surprisingly numerous), Japanese and Chinese, the latter being probably in excess, observation would show, of either of the other nationalities.

MEXICAN BUSINESS

THE REVIEW will undertake confidential inquiries and business commissions of all kinds in any portion of Mexico. It has connections of the highest character in that country and is in position to obtain results promptly and satisfactorily. Those requiring services of that nature, with an assurance of such results, may address THE MEXICAN REVIEW, 302-303 Riggs Bldg., Washington, D. C. This service will be conducted free of charge, except where expense is entailed in obtaining the information in Mexico or the correspondent desires information by wire.

FROM a limited section in the State of Sonora there were produced and exported during the crop year over one million dollars' worth of "garbanzas," a sort of field pea which is largely consumed in Latin countries. Foreigners were the chief growers of this crop, the quality of the Mexican product being the finest known in the market.

THE zinc mines in Northern Coahuila, which have been large producers in the past but were mostly closed down during the revolution, are being reopened, giving employment to many. The high price of the metal caused by the European war has stimulated production wherever the mineral is found.

THE National Agrarian Commission is holding regular sessions for the purpose of ascertaining the rightful owners of the various "ejidos," or community lands in all parts of the Republic, and of returning them to their original possessors. Rapid progress is being made in this direction and the happy Indians who are thus put in possession of their ancestral acres are busy cultivating them and establishing homes on the little farms from which they were ruthlessly driven by the land grabbers of the Diaz regime.

OIL exports from Tampico for the months of March and April of this year totaled 2,646,965 barrels. For the same period in 1915 they were 1,731,475 barrels. Which would seem to indicate that there is at least one prosperous industry in Mexico, notwithstanding exaggerated reports to the contrary. Further proof of this fact is found in the annual statement of one company operating in the Tampico field, showing a net profit of nearly three million dollars after charging off depreciation, etc., and this too during one of the most unsettled periods of the entire revolution.

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST

DON ANTONIO HERNANDEZ FERRER has been appointed representative ad interim from Mexico to the Cuban Government

AN agrarian commission in the State of San Luis Potosi is busy allotting lands for cultivation to all desiring them. They are not given outright, but are merely assigned temporarily.

AMNESTY has been granted to all members of the Madero family who aided the opponents of the Constitutionalist Government and they have been given permission to return to their homes in Mexico.

REPAIRS to the telegraph lines connecting Mexico City with Acapulco and intermediate points have been completed and communication, which had for a long time been cut off, has been resumed.

TRAFFIC between Saltillo and Laredo, via Monterrey, has been increased and now there are four trains daily between those points, thus tending greatly to augment the commerce of that portion of the Republic.

SECRETARY of War Obregon, under the sanction of the First Chief, has established a military school for the purpose of affording both theoretical and practical instruction in military science. All members of the various army staffs who have served less than two years and are from 18 to 25 years of age are eligible to attendance.

THE banks of issue in Mexico City had a total specie holding of $86,624,411 for the year 1915, as compared with a total of $79,448,503 in 1909—before there was a whisper of revolution, or not more than a whisper. And their statements for the present year will make an even better showing.

THIRTY new locomotives and many passenger and freight cars have recently been received at the border on account of a large order for rolling stock placed some time ago by the Constitutionalist railroad authorities. A large amount of material has also been received for use in repairing engines and cars now in the shops, all of which establishments are running full force on such work.

THE Austro-German colony of Mexico City gave an entertainment on July 21 for the benefit of the victims of the European war. Members of the colony gave a comedy entitled "The Geese of the Capitol." The entertainment was attended by many of the members of the diplomatic corps and was a success both financially and socially.

THE Intercontinental Rubber Company and the Mexican Petroleum Company have issued positive disclaimers of any intention on their part to participate in any manner whatever in the political campaign now under way in the United States. They had been publicly accused of such intention.

ANNOUNCEMENT has been made of the consolidation of the Mexican Institute of Mining and Metallurgy with the American Institute of Mining Engineers. The former will be known as the Mexican section of the American society. The combined institute now has a membership approaching six thousand.

THE Confederation of United Workmen of Vera Cruz has asked Governor Jara to dissolve the Board of Commerce of that city. The reason given by the workmen is that the decisions of that board enable the merchants to secrete large stocks of the necessary food products and aggravate the condition of the poorer classes.

ENERGETIC steps are being taken to rehabilitate the educational system of the entire Republic. Strict enforcement of the compulsory educational law has been ordered and all students who entered the army before completing their studies have been directed to return to their colleges.

A NUMBER of railway concessions granted by Huerta have been cancelled by the Government, in accordance with a decree issued very early in the revolution to the effect that none of the acts of the usurper or of State Govern[illegible] him allegiance would be recognized [illegible] stitutionalists when they assumed [illegible] power.

AN American sugar company a[illegible] Sinaloa, the largest one of its ki[illegible] has more than doubled its acreage [illegible] since the commencement of the re[illegible] that State has been the scene of sanguinary warfare and the contending forces have fought back and forth throughout its entire extent over and over again during the past four years. The reader can draw his own conclusions.

EXTENSIVE property formerly occupied by Huerta at Popotla, one of Mexico city's suburbs, and at one time known as the Convent of Merced, has been taken possession of by the Government and is being converted into a foundling hospital. When the improvements are complete and modern hygienic appliances installed, this establishment will give accommodation for many hundreds of little ones.

REPORTS from Tampico and many other points where Americans in considerable numbers are employed are to the effect that those who left the country during the recent crisis are returning in constantly increasing numbers and resuming their occupations. It will be remembered that Minister of Foreign Relations Aguilar, on learning that Americans had been warned to leave the country, issued a notice without delay telling them that all the power of the Constitutionalist Government would be used to protect them, and that there was no occasion to depart. The Americans in the States of Tabasco and Guanajuato joined in a representation to the Constitutionalist Government that they did not wish to leave, and in return were given ample guarantees, which they accepted and continued their customary occupations. The final outcome has demonstrated the wisdom of their action.

ARMAGEDDON, a book just published in which the Bible prophecies given centuries ago relating to this very time are presented in a most clear and convincing manner. Send 25 cents and read the book.
B. B. Smith, Takoma Park, Washington, D. C

BREVITIES

NOTICE has been published that certain concessions granted by the usurping regime in 1914 for the exploitation of valuable guano deposits on the islands off the coast of Tepic and Jalisco have been nullified.

IN order that the coming election shall be a full and free expression of the will of the people, the First Chief has issued instructions that there shall be no interference with the organization of political clubs in all portions of the Republic.

EXPERIMENT stations are being established by the Government in the state of Durango for the cultivation of **guayule**, the wonderful rubber producing plant of the desert region of the north, which is threatened with extinction unless steps are taken for its reproduction.

EVERY week from twenty to twenty-five million pesos of the old paper currency are destroyed by the Monetary Commission, and at this rate the entire issue will probably be retired by the first of the coming year. These bills are received by the railroads, telegraphs and other government branches, in payment of dues, while large amounts are being contributed daily by private citizens, commercial and social organizations, companies, etc., for cancellation. This latter method of reducing a nation's debt is surely unique.

MEXICAN cities have a very admirable method of enabling people, and especially strangers, to find a given location. Addresses are always given thus: 5a Calle San Felipe Neri, 162. This means that the number of the building is 162 and that it is to be found in the fifth block of the street San Felipe Neri. By giving the block number, one knows exactly where to look for the desired point. This method has been followed for more years than THE REVIEW knows. It antedates the "hundred to a block" method.

THE Young Men's Christian Association of Mexico City recently gave a series of entertainments the proceeds of which were turned over to the National Government to be applied on the public debt. Many affairs with the same object have been given in all parts of the Republic.

THE example set by military leaders in Mexico three years ago, in providing armored railroad cars for artillery as well as riflemen, is now being followed in the United States. Those used so effectively in Mexico were improvised from the scant material at hand, but proved of great value in actual warfare.

ON August 15th four million two hundred thousand dollars of the old paper issue were burned by the treasury officials, in pursuance of the practice of destroying all such bills that come into possession of the Government. Out of the seven hundred millions of the retired currency, upward of four hundred millions have already been destroyed.

STEPS are now being taken for the prompt return of the Mexican Railway to its owners, an English corporation. The road extends from Vera Cruz to Mexico City and is the oldest line in the Republic. It was seized by Huerta during his usurpation and from military necessity has been operated by the Government continuously since that time. A careful survey is being made of the damage suffered by the company, and it will be reimbursed by the authorities, including loss of revenue, destruction of rolling stock, etc.

GENERAL PABLO GONZALES has established an Agrarian Commission in the State of Morelos in order to carry out the land reforms pledged in the decree of the First Chief issued at Vera Cruz in January 1915. The land question has been a problem of surpassing importance in that State, as prior to the revolution the bulk of the arable land within its boundaries was held by less than a dozen families, while the common people were held in a state of abject peonage. This is being remedied with all the haste possible.

"YES, I have changed my mind. Only the minds of fools stand still."—*Briand.*

"NO man is good enough to govern another man."—These words of the immortal Lincoln are respectfully commended to the thoughtful consideration of those Americans who think they have a God-given right to govern Mexico according to their own ideas.

IN accordance with instructions from the First Chief many properties which had been temporarily taken charge of by the Government have been turned over to their former owners. Investigation is being made in all such cases and as rapidly as possible the properties given to those holding legal titles thereto.

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The Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT
TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

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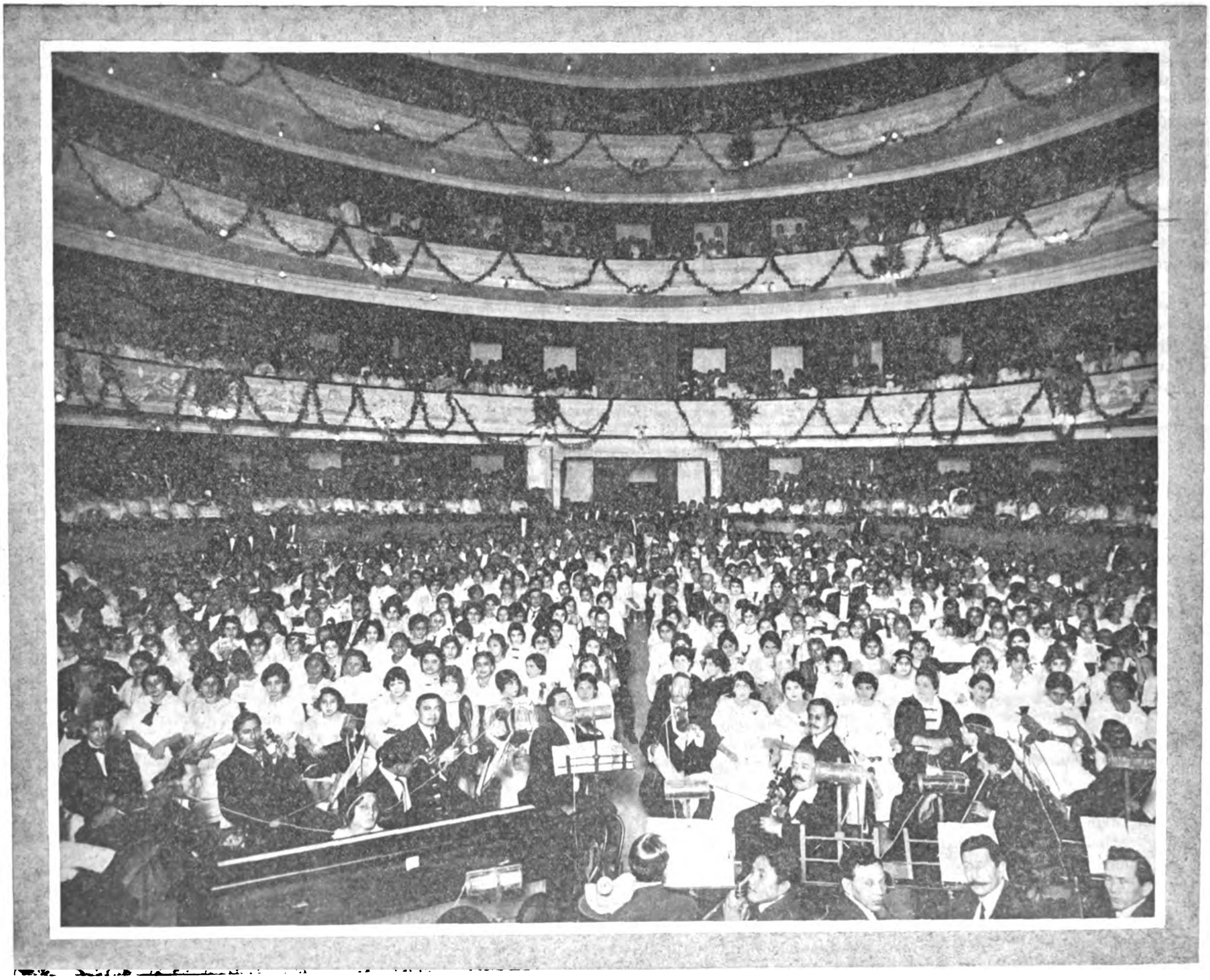

Woman's Congress at Merida, Yucatan—First Event of the Kind in Mexico's History

Price Ten Cents

Militant Women in the Mexican Army

They Did Not a Little to Bring about the Success of the Constitutionalist Cause—Bravery of a Hospital Nurse

A FAVORITE "argument," if it may be thus dignified, of the Anti-Woman Suffragists is:

"They cannot fight and therefore they should not vote," or, "Bullets and ballots go together." With the presumption that only in male hands can they be placed in such juxtaposition. But this crass assertion does not "go" in Mexico.

Women *do* fight here—as the revolution of the past three years has demonstrated repeatedly, and they fight well too!

Not a little of the success of the revolution, especially in the early days, was due to their superior fighting abilities—and not only to their ability to fight, but also to withstand all the varied hardships of a campaign in a region for the most part desert in character.

And since their ability to handle the bullet has thus been demonstrated, there is now a very promising movement on foot to give them a like opportunity with the ballot.

This movement is championed to an extent by Governor Salvador Alvarado of the State of Yucatán, who has shown himself one of the most far-seeing, intelligent and progressive of all the revolutionary leaders.

But first as to the fighting. When Governor Carranza of Coahuila alone among all the 27 State Governors in Mexico declared his intention to oppose with all possible force the traitor, assassin and usurper Huerta, he had a scant hundred armed men at his command. As soon as word went out that men were needed to defend the Constitutional Government and avenge the murders of the President and Vice-President, not alone men, but women and even children, flocked to the standard. Of arms and munitions there were none, and every individual who possessed a weapon of any kind and knew how to pull a trigger was welcome. There were old, middle aged and young men; there were children of eleven and twelve; there were women, gray haired and in the first flush of maturity. Every old weapon, even flintlocks, was furbished up, and as horses were then abundant, each volunteer as a rule provided himself or herself with one. In every battle the women showed themselves the equal of the men. At Matamoros, the first notable engagement early in the revolution, not a little of the success of the Constitutionalists was due to the heroic bravery of a woman standard bearer, who with flag in one hand and rifle in the other, led a charge against a much larger number of Federals who were intrenched in an adobe house behind a thick wall, and put them to rout. There were battalions made up entirely of women, many of whom had lost their husbands at the hands of the Federals or had suffered in other ways.

The recklessness and bravery of the women fighters soon became noted throughout the army, and woe betide the Federal or that much despised creature the "Colorado" (as the Maderistas were called who subsequently turned traitor under Orozco and others), who was so unfortunate as to meet the Amazonian fighters. The fate of the Colorados was swift and sure, no quarter being the universal custom. Every column of the army had its women fighters, and they yielded not one whit to the men in their ability to undergo any hardship, any suffering, or to give a good account of themselves in combat.

One of the bravest little women who ever handled a rifle was the widow of an officer who had been murdered by Ojeda's Federals, not killed in open combat but murdered. After fighting for a while in the ranks she was put in charge of the hospital at Naco during the long-continued contest there between General Hill's beleaguered forces and Maytorena's Yaquis. Much of the fighting was done at night and it was the custom of the attacking Indians to carry their wounded away before daylight in order to prevent their falling into the inhospitable hands of the enemy. But on one occasion they overlooked four badly injured men and these were carried to the hospital presided over by Señora Dolores La Cruz. Realizing their peril, she had them placed in a separate room, their wounds dressed and their presence kept a secret so far as possible. A few hours later, however, a petty officer with a squad of soldiers entered the building, having in some way gained knowledge of the presence of the wounded Yaquis. They were met by the matron and their errand demanded.

"We have come for those wounded Indians—where are they?"

"What do you want of them?"

"We are going to shoot them!"

"This is a Red Cross hospital and the rules of such places are that wounded enemies shall receive the same treatment as our own men. You cannot have them."

"But we *will* have them—where are they?"

A little parley ensued, the officer being foiled in his errand by his inability to determine in which of the many rooms the men were secreted. Just as he appeared determined to enter a closed door in front of which the matron stood, she stepped to a nearby corner, grasped a mauser rifle standing there, pumped a cartridge into the breech, cocked the weapon and put the muzzle within a foot of the officer's heart.

"You can take my wounded men if you wish, but it will be over my dead body—and over yours as well. If you give an order to interfere with them or if you make a motion to touch me, I will send a bullet into your heart!"

And the plucky little woman, who is only about five feet high, gazed up unflinchingly into the face of the stalwart and somewhat amazed officer. She followed up her threat by literally driving him and his squad out of the hospital at the muzzle of her rifle, and was able shortly afterward to send the wounded Yaquis across the line and under American protection.

That is the sort of stuff many Mexican women are made of.

But to return. Having thus shown themselves proficient with the bullet, many are now looking for an opportunity to demonstrate their ability with the ballot as well.

Down in Yucatan last January a Woman's Congress, the first of the kind ever held in the Republic of Mexico, was convened at the instance of General Alvarado, a native of the State of Sonora, which has produced so many men of advanced ideas, and under whose administration the first-named State has made the most encouraging as well as surprising advance since the triumph of the revolution. This Congress numbered upward of 700 delegates, and during the six days which comprised their session they evinced a thorough knowledge of the needs of their country, as well as a decided ambition to take part in supplying those needs. They endorsed with enthusiasm all the reforms pledged by the revolutionists—Agrarian Reform, restoration and division of lands, shorter hours of labor, abolition of the peonage system, the minimum wage, land taxation, abolition of special privileges, curtailment of the many evils which tend to the degradation of the common people, popular education, industrial instruction, etc. But they went further. In order that these reforms might be carried out with the support of the entire nation, regardless of sex, the Congress put itself on record as favoring the ballot for women. Following the adjournment of this first woman's congress, General Alvarado appointed a supervising board of education, composed entirely of the mothers of families of high standing and possessing the necessary requisites for the performance of such duties. To these women are submitted all questions covering the establishment of schools and the methods of education best adapted to the common people. They have done and are doing excellent work in this direction and the State of Yucatan can boast the establishment of a greater number of new schools within the past year and a half—or since the complete triumph of the revolution in that section—than any other portion of the Republic. The number of such educational institutions runs well into the thousands, thus demonstrating the sincerity of the revolutionists in their pledge to make the education of the common people one of their principal objects.

In order that this movement may become more widespread, and since Yucatan and its capital are not readily accessible from other portions of the country owing to the remoteness of geographical situation, General Alvarado some time ago issued a call for a second Woman's Congress, this time to be held in Mexico City.

This convention met on September 15th and its object, as specified by the call, was to take the necessary steps to secure all the measures of liberty for women which are demanded by the modern epoch in which we live. Invitations were sent to all State Governors to select delegates for the gathering, which was one of the most notable events in the history of the feminist movement the world has yet seen. In the next issue of THE REVIEW it is hoped to give an account of the work of this gathering.

There is a popular idea, carefully inculcated by some, that Mexican women are not interested in affairs of state; that they are accustomed to confine themselves solely to their home duties and not to "meddle" in purely masculine matters, such as the proper education and government of the rising generation. But having shown themselves abundantly able to fight for the purpose of bringing about the reforms which were the mainspring of the revolution, there is a constantly increasing number of women who quite naturally believe themselves fully capable of taking an active part in carrying out those reforms.

And this Woman's Congress is a concrete expression of this belief.

THE Constitutionalist Government has acquired in different parts of the Federal Capital eight mills for grinding corn with the object of furnishing at cost corn meal and masa (dough from which tortillas are made) to families in need of same for daily consumption, and especially to the poor. At the time of taking over these mills the Government obtained a supply of corn for grinding, and, according to newspaper reports, should it be necessary for the protection of the public the authorities will confiscate corn stored by individuals for speculative purposes.

Telegraph, Postoffice and Harbor Improvement

Work Accomplished by the Department of Communications Under Adverse Conditions. Remarkable Progress

COMMISSIONER Ignacio Bonillas, the well-known civil and mining engineer who is acting secretary of the Department of Communications and Public Works, has furnished THE REVIEW with a very interesting but necessarily brief summary of the work accomplished by his branch of the Government since he took charge of it under Constitutionalist control early in the revolution. Under his supervision are the railroads, postoffices, telegraph lines, port, harbor, and river improvements and other works of a public character. The actual operation of the railways is in the hands of a separate branch under the direction of Engineer A. J. Pani, also one of the members of the international commission. His interesting report upon the work accomplished under his direction is given elsewhere. The head of the Department of Communications exercises advisory control over the transportation lines, both those owned by the Government and those which are in private ownership.

Throughout practically the entire revolution Engineer Bonillas was kept busy in restoring the telegraph and postal services as rapidly as new territory came under control. Repair gangs went with the armies into the field, and the telegraph lines, which had for the greater portion been destroyed by the enemy, not once but many times, were repaired, restored and put into operation with as little delay as possible. So closely was this work pushed that not infrequently civilians thus employed were killed or wounded by the enemy while engaged in their peaceful vocation.

At the present time there is complete telegraphic communication with all portions of the Republic, even the most remote, and this has been the case for many months. The last State to be thus provided was Morelos, where Zapata held control so long and from which he has been driven and his forces scattered to the four winds of the mountains. When the difficulties encountered are considered, the total destruction of equipment, the scarcity of suitable material for poles, and the remoteness from sources of supply, the promptness with which telegraphic communication has been restored and maintained is one of the most interesting features of the period.

One of the most important features of the work of Engineer Bonillas' department has been the establishment of a complete system of wireless telegraphy connecting all portions of the Republic, and acting as a safeguard against the cutting of the land wires by bands of marauders. the overwhelming importance of such a system was demonstrated during the revolution, and experts were accordingly dispatched to the United States for the purpose of securing the most modern appliances and inventions in wireless communication, and these have been utilized in the various centers of population. The stations at Saltillo, the capital of Coahuila, and at Chapultepec, in the suburbs of the capital city of the Republic, are the largest of the system, being of five kilowatt power. The other stations are all of two and one-half kilowatt power and are located at Vera Cruz, Torreon, Chihuahua, Campeche, Xcalak (in the territory of Quintana Roo), Mazatlan, San Jose del Cabo and Santa Rosalia in Lower California, and also at Guaymas, in Sonora, and under construction at Salina Cruz, Acapulco and Manzanillo. The wireless station established at Cananea, Sonora, by an American copper company, is being operated by the Government in connection with the remainder of its service, which is more than twice the extent than before the revolution.

The land service, which has always been the property of the Government and has afforded one of the cheapest methods of electric communication in any portion of the world, has been greatly extended since the Constitutionalist Government obtained control, and many places have been given telegraphic communication which were neglected before that time. The entire country is now covered and the service is in a practically normal condition. This has been accomplished under great difficulties in many sections and the fact that the re-establishment of the lines kept pace with the occupation of even the most remote sections is a testimonial to the energy and resourcefulness of those in charge of this most important work.

IGNACIO BONILLAS

The postal service was in especially bad shape when the Constitutionalists took charge of it. The personnel was topheavy, excessively costly and too frequently inefficient, and the service was far from what was demanded and was imperatively necessary. Under the new regime the delivery of mails has been carefully regulated, old and disadvantageous contracts have been abrogated and new and more advantageous ones entered into. Many new routes have been established and offices opened in places which in the past had never enjoyed postal facilities. The mails are delivered with greater frequency in all sections than heretofore, and while the force formerly considered essential has been materially decreased, with corresponding lessening of expense, much greater efficiency now prevails and the department was never in as flourishing and satisfactory condition as at present. The receipts of the service are rapidly approaching the highest point known before the revolution, although this feature was materially affected by the low gold value of the currency that was accepted for dues. All postage is now payable in Mexican specie, which tends to equalize the finances of the department. The international money order system has been restored and is now in complete running order, while settlement has been made of the deficiencies due other countries belonging to the postal union. Recently there was paid to the Government of Cuba on this account between thirty and forty thousand dollars in gold. Liabilities of this kind that accrued under the Huerta regime are the only debts of that usurpation that are recognized by the Constitutionalist Government and this was only done because the were international obligations due the Unite States, Great Britain and other countries.

The lighthouse service of the country is a portion of the duty of the Department of Commun cations, and this too has been renovated and restored. Much of the machinery and equipment of the lighthouses had either been destroyed or removed by Federals and the buildings damaged. But this has all been remedied and mariners approaching the shore on either coast find the signals all in good order and worthy of entire dependence.

The improvement of the harbors of the country is under the jurisdiction of Engineer Bonillas and has occupied much of his time and personal effort. Of great importance is the deepening of the channel of the Panuco river and the dredging of deep sea channel across the bar at its mouth, affording access to the great oil exporting center of Tampico. The jetties too at the mouth of the river had been suffered to lapse into disrepair, but all this work of restoration and improvement is progressing rapidly. Next to Vera Cruz, Tampico is the most important seaport in the Republic, most of the business transacted there being in connection with the petroleum development, and the importance of the harbor for the accommodation of deep sea shipping is of the greatest. Arrangements for the improvement necessary are now under way and it is expected that upward of two million dollars will be expended in the task.

At Tuxpam, another important oil shipping port, in the Tampico region, dredging of the bar will be contracted in the near future and jetties and wharves will be constructed or are already under way. At Vera Cruz the harbor has been dredged, new and substantial wharves erected, and the port put into shape to accommodate any demands that may be made upon it by commerce.

At Progreso, the seaport for Merida, the capital of the State of Yucatan, improvements are now in progress, while a study is being made of a comprehensive system of harbor improvement, greatly needed since the place is at present merely an open roadstead and difficult for the proper and economical handling of freight, shipments of various products, notably hennequen fiber, amounting to many thousands of tons annually and constantly increasing.

At Frontera, in the State of Tabasco, a comprehensive system of harbor improvement is under way, which includes the dredging of a channel through the bar, thus opening the Grijalva and

Usumacinta rivers for navigation by ocean-going vessels into the interior and making of San Juan Bautista, the capital of the State, a port of entry. This improvement will afford shipping facilities for the export of vast quantities of fruit and other products, including the renowned bananas of that region, which are superior to the product elsewhere and command much higher prices.

At Coatzacoalcos wharves are being rebuilt and the channel dredged out, the port being put into good shape in every respect.

On the west coast work is being prosecuted at Guaymas and Mazatlan. At the latter place it is in contemplation to dredge a channel for deep water vessels into the estuary and establish there securely protected wharves for the accommodation of the constantly increasing commerce of that port. The wharf which was destroyed while under Federal control is being rebuilt and other important works are projected. Work is being carried out at Guaymas and bids will soon be asked for extensive improvements there. A wharf is projected at Acapulco, where it is much needed, while the wharf at Manzanillo, which was destroyed by the Federals, is being rebuilt. At Salina Cruz also necessary work is being done to put the harbor into perfect condition.

Taken as a whole the work that has been accomplished within a comparatively brief period under the direction of Engineer Bonillas is as interesting as it is wonderful, accomplished as it has been during a period of great financial as well as political, social and industrial stress, and is another of the many remarkable examples of the ability of Mexico to bring order out of chaos and to rehabilitate herself in the face of many adverse conditions. It is also a most remarkable and notable refutation of many charges that have been widely circulated and given credence regarding conditions in that country, as well as concerning the character of the men who are now in control.

Present Financial Situation of Mexico

How the Currency Problem Is Working Itself Out—The Old Paper Mostly Retired—Greatly Increased Revenue

THERE have been so many exaggerated and even untruthful reports circulated regarding the financial condition of Mexico, that a plain statement of some of the salient facts is regarded as timely.

It may be stated with positiveness that the country is gradually solving its currency problem from its own resources and without as yet asking for or receiving any assistance from the outside in the way of a loan secured by a bond issue. No effort has in fact ever been made by any of the Constitutionalist officials to negotiate such a loan, there being at least one very prominent reason therefor—that national bonds pledging the credit of the country for their redemption can only be issued upon authorization of Congress. There being no such body in existence and there having been none for more than three years past, it naturally follows that until one shall have been elected it would be impossible to go into the money market and secure a loan for any amount whatever. For this reason if for no other, any talk of negotiating a loan is untimely and can have but one result.

The Constitutionalist officials are fully aware of this, and have not yet taken any steps in this direction, as has so frequently been asserted but without foundation in truth. There is however the utmost confidence on their part and that of those familiar with conditions in Mexico in the ability of the Government to negotiate a bond issue upon favorable terms just as soon as it is possible to comply with essential requirements in such matters. There is, also, as there always has been, a very earnest belief on the part of the leaders of the Government, that if given time Mexico can rehabilitate her own finances from her own illimitable resources, but this is necessarily a question of time, though with the restoration of complete peace and tranquility and the consequent ability to dispense with a large portion of the vast outlay required for military purposes, the amount available for financial rehabilitation would be very materially increased. The possibilities in this direction are demonstrated by the fact that the income of the Government from taxation is now fully three times as great as it was at the opening of the year, and is constantly augmenting as foreign commerce increases and as a more comprehensive and equitable system of taxation is adopted and carried out.

LOUIS CABRERA

The currency question is assuming a more satisfactory condition each day. It is estimated that of the entire issue of old paper through which the revolution was fought to a successful ending (that known as the Vera Cruz currency), not more than one hundred millions out of the original total of seven hundred millions still remains outstanding. The balance has all been retired and destroyed. When it was decided to retire it and substitute therefor paper with a metallic reserve behind it and of a fixed valuation, the holders were given the option of surrendering it to the Government for future redemption at more than twice its current market value, or of exchanging it for the new metallic reserve paper at the current rate of exchange. Most holders preferred the latter course as producing the most immediate result, and hence its rapid retirement. The old paper was until September first held good for the payment of various forms of taxation as well as for railroad freights and fares, telegraph tolls, etc., and vast amounts have thus passed and are still passing into the hands of the Government. This method of retiring the old paper will hold good until the end of the year so far as certain forms of taxation are concerned, at which time very little if any, it is reasonably expected, will remain outstanding.

While this process of retirement was being carried out the actual revenue of the Government suffered a diminution to the same extent as the receipts of the non-current paper, but with the growing scarcity of that currency the net receipts are constantly increasing and will continue to do so, thus enabling additions to be made to the treasury balance behind the new paper, whose volume is restricted to five hundred millions, with a fixed exchange value of ten cents American gold or twenty cents Mexican specie to the peso.

At the same time, a portion of the surplus will be devoted to meeting the overdue interest on the national debt, which by the way is by no means so large as popular report would seem to indicate. As import and export duties and certain other forms of taxation producing large returns are payable in specie, it will be possible to devote increasing amounts of the surplus toward the reduction of outstanding obligations. Contrary to general opinion, the foreign commerce of the Republic was never so large as now and never returned so large an income, thus affording another argument for the support of the belief that if given time, and no great time at that, the finances of the country can be placed upon a stable basis without effecting a loan, or at least without the necessity of securing any such amount as has been asserted would be required for the purposes indicated.

One of the reasons for withdrawing the special privileges enjoyed by the Banco Nacional and the Bank of London and Mexico, and for requiring them to obey the law by redeeming their notes at par in specie on demand, was because those institutions had confined their business operations almost exclusively for a period of years to manipulations of the money market with the obvious intention of unjustly depreciating the exchange value of the national paper of all issues. The principal agency in this hostile proceeding has thus been eliminated, and with the discouragement of this form of speculation in other directions, it is reasonable to expect that the paper currency will enjoy stability both in its gold exchange rate and in its purchasing power, something difficult to maintain so long as those values are subject to the manipulation of speculators, actuated as they are by undue greed for gain as well as by antagonism to the Government.

AFTER the foregoing was written the banks reconsidered their determination to remain closed and opened their doors for business. One of the clauses of the old banking law which had not been observed for some time was that requiring the constant presence in such institutions of an "interventor," a government official corresponding to the bank examiner of the United States, though with wider latitude of power. This official has complete access at all times to the books and business, as well as the vaults, money and securities, and no business of any kind can be transacted without his cognizance and consent. The Constitutionalist Government had directed the observance of this law, but the banks had declined. Subsequently however they reconsidered this determination, interventors were appointed and the banks resumed the kind of business which they have been transacting dnring the revolution. The decree requiring the bringing of their specie reserves up to a par with their note issues bears date of September 15th, and the banks have sixty days in which to comply.

INTERVENTION A CRIME

Professor David Starr Jordan Takes Strong and Unequivocal Ground against Interference in Mexico's Internal Problems

"THE Crime of Intervention" is the title of an article by Professor David Starr Jordan, of the Leland Stanford Jr. University, which has been given a considerable amount of publicity through the Mexican press. In the article, Professor Jordan says that the presence of the American troops in Mexico is a constant cause of irritation at this time, and serves not only to increase the lack of confidence in the United States that already exists among Latin-Americans, but also tends to destroy the forces that are making for the regeneration of Mexico through the establishment of modern democratic institutions.

To intervene in Mexico now would be a crime, he says, that would end forever the prestige of the United States abroad. He believes that Austria had more right to intervene in Serbia than has the United States to intervene in Mexico.

Professor Jordan reminds Americans of their treaty with Mexico of 1848, which provided arbitration for all disputes that should arise in their international relations, and he shows that the difficulties with that country at the present time come within the jurisdiction of that treaty. He claims that the American people will not, for a single moment, consider that treaty as a "scrap of paper."

Professor Jordan attended the sessions of the Anti-Militarist American Union recently held in El Paso, and while there took advantage of the opportunity for studying the Mexican situation in its international aspects. As a result of his observations, he points out that the Mexican revolution, aside from all its horrors and its cruelties, has moved along perfectly definite lines for good; that the prime object of the revolution has been to destroy the mediæval organization that the Spaniards left as an inheritance to that country. He sets forth the ownership of the land by the great landholders, and the condition of the peons as that of slaves, and speaks of the wretched ignorance of these people and the glaring wrongs surrounding them, and of the great misfortune of the country in having its great riches practically sold to concessionaires, native and foreign, and among the latter, principally Americans, Germans, and the English.

After all their bloodshed and horrors since the fall of Diaz, Carranza, he says, comes forth as the only representative of order and of law, and as such has been justly recognized by the United States and the principal Latin-American Republics.

In the regions free from military operations conditions have notably improved, and a new birth of prosperity and civilization already appears to the view. It is like new grass that grows over a camp that has been burned, Professor Jordan says.

It seems that the changes in the betterment of things take place in different localities or regions, bit by bit, and that peace has been completely reestablished in all but three of the twenty-seven States that form the Mexican Federation. Public instruction has received a great impulse forward in these States, as is attested by the fact that in Yucatan there are today 2,400 school teachers, against 200 in the time of Porfirio Diaz.

In some of the States they already have laws against the sale of liquor and for the equitable division or allotment of lands; equitable taxation is receiving the attention that important subject demands, and the cooperative system used in England has been freely established in all parts of the country. Also, agricultural schools are developing rapidly.

In regard to finances, according to Professor Jordan, everywhere in Mexico there exists a confidence that the country itself will be sufficently able to handle the situation without being compelled to resort to heavy foreign loans. Carranza has not been willing to resort to that perilous procedure to fill the vaults of the Treasury.

In other States of the Republic the Government is making great efforts to restore peace; in fact, the only places now in which unfortunate conditions still prevail are Morelos—dominated by Zapata—and Chihuahua, where the recent trouble has occurred on the American frontier. For these disorders, Professor Jordan holds the United States as well as Mexico to blame. The frontier is of such vast extent, that the forces of neither country have been sufficient for the adequate patrolling of the border and its proper protection.

Professor Jordan believes that the retiring of the United States troops from Mexican territory would not only guarantee the protection of the frontier in an effective manner, but would aid much in the national reconstruction of Mexico, terminating thus the bloody strife of which it has been the theater during the last five years.

Mexico will not be able to return to the days of Porfirio Diaz, Professor Jordan says, any more than can France, for example, return to the days of Napoleon III. Mexico has to go forward, and now is the time for the United States to aid her in the accomplishment of progress and peace by our moral sympathy, and if necessary, with our money (gold).

What Mexico needs is, he says, public instruction, hygiene, adequate agrarian laws, and honesty in the management of her railroad, mineral and petroleum interests.

The great noise that has been made in the mobilization of the American military forces at the frontier has caused the belief that war was imminent and inevitable; but to all of those who are acquainted with the true character of the American people, war declared under these conditions would appear a great crime, for which those found culpable would never be pardoned.

Tho efforts made in favor of mediation must necessarily give fruit, in Professor Jordan's belief; of this there can not be the slightest doubt. He has great faith that President Wilson and his counselors will be actuated throughout by benevolence and equity in the readjustment of Mexican and United States relations.

A CONCESSION granted in 1913 for the construction of a railroad from Salina Cruz to Acapulco, on the Pacific coast, has been nullified by the Government for failure to comply with the stipulations thereof.

MANY kindergartens have been established in the State of Coahuila, the educational problem having been one of the first studies undertaken by Governor Espinosa Mireles. The best equipment obtainable has been procured and new schools opened in every town and village in the State.

President Lincoln on the Mexican Situation

WHEN President Lincoln took office in 1861 one of the first questions that confronted him, outside of the internal affairs of this country, was the Mexican situation. The great liberator, Benito Juarez, had inaugurated the laws of reform, but was combated by the same class which is now combating the Government that is seeking to enforce the Reform laws and to liberate the common people. In a letter of instructions to Thomas Corwin, Minister to Mexico, President Lincoln thus expressed himself:

> For a few years past the condition of Mexico has been so unsettled as to raise the question on both sides of the Atlantic whether the time has not come when some foreign power ought, in the general interest of society, to intervene, to establish a protectorate or some other form of government in that country and guarantee its continuance there.
>
> You will not fail to assure the Government of Mexico that the President neither has, nor can ever have, any sympathy with such designs, in whatever quarter they may arise or whatever character they may take on. . . .
>
> The President never for a moment doubts that the republican system is to pass safely through all ordeals and prove a permanent success in our own country, and so to be recommended to adoption by all other nations.
>
> But he thinks, also, that the system everywhere has to make its way painfully through difficulties and embarrassments which result from the action of antagonistical elements which are a legacy of former times and very different institutions.
>
> The President is hopeful of the ultimate triumph of this system over all obstacles, as well in regard to Mexico as in regard to every other American State; but he feels that those States are nevertheless justly entitled to a greater forbearance and more generous sympathies from the Government and people of the United States than they are likely to receive in any other quarter. . . .
>
> The President trusts that your mission, manifesting these sentiments, will reassure the Government of Mexico of his best disposition to favor their commerce and their internal improvements.
>
> I find the archives here full of complaints against the Mexican Government for violation of contracts and spoliation and cruelties practiced against American citizens. It is not the President's intention to send forward such claims at the present moment. He willingly defers the performance of a duty, which at any time would seem ungracious, until the incoming administration in Mexico shall have had time, if possible, to cement its authority.

An Important Regulation

THE Office of Public Works, Colonization and Industry, having in mind the pressure exercised by employers on their employees in contracts for service, in which the latter are obliged to sign unlawful contracts, renouncing their rights established by law, recommends to the Governors and civil authorities of the Territories, that they give orders to the proper persons that in conflicts arising between employers and laborers, they take into account, in making their decisions, the principle of high justice, embodied in the Mexican laws, which holds null and void the renunciation of any legal right, the observance of which is not within the will of the one entering into the contract, in which public order and good custom are embodied.

With this praiseworthy regulation many abuses will be avoided. Such for example as the effort on the part of unprincipled employers to nullify the law against peonage by inducing laborers anxious for employment to renounce their rights under that law.

RAILWAY TRAFFIC IN MEXICO

Remarkable Work Done in the Restoration of the Transportation System by the Constitutionalist Government

THE National Railways of Mexico, comprising about two-thirds of the mileage in the Republic, and of which the Government has for several years owned 55 per cent, were taken over by the Constitutionalist authorities in December, 1914, in connection with several lines not already the property of the nation. Engineer Alberto J. Pani was placed in charge with plenary powers to bring about the promptest possible restoration of normal traffic conditions consistent with a state of war. At that time the entire country was in the throes of revolution, tracks had been torn up by wholesale, rolling stock either entirely destroyed or put out of commission, bridges and stations burned, and the transportation outlook was far from being encouraging. No one not personally familiar with the situation can have an adequate idea of the apparently hopeless conditions that confronted the new manager. But he addressed himself with determination to the task. Old material was brought into use, repairs of a temporary nature were effected, to be followed by those of a more permanent character, rolling stock was repaired, stations built, and with amazingly little delay traffic was restored as rapidly as the Constitutionalists obtained control of new sections.

So effective have been the efforts of Engineer Pani and his associates that at the opening of the New London conference, to which he is one of the Commissioners, he was able to make the following interesting and instructive statement:

"The Carranza Government, at the time when Villa was at the height of his power, controlled less than 2,000 miles out of the 13,000 miles of railways in operation in the whole country. When the Carranza Government was recognized in October, 1915, the mileage under Carranza's control had increased to about 10,000 miles, and much effort was being expended in the repair of the system, in order to make it available for regular operation.

"At the present moment the Carranza Government is in control and is operating the entire 8,000 miles of the Government lines, as well as operating about 2,000 miles belonging to private companies. In addition the present Government has turned over the Mexican Railway and the Southern Pacific systems to their respective owners. In short, about 12,000 out of a total of 13,000 miles are to-day in operation either directly by the Government or private companies.

"In January, 1915, the total income of the Government lines was 647,000 pesos (paper currency). At this time the Carranza Government was in Vera Cruz, and Villa and Zapata were in control of Mexico City. The monthly income had advanced to 3,000,000 pesos (paper currency), in October, 1915, the date of recognition of the Carranza Government. Since then the monthly income has steadily increased until in August, 1916, it reached 25,000,000 pesos (paper currency). The tonnage of freight at present is virtually the same as in 1912. All this has been accomplished in spite of a shortage of rolling stock and engines.

"While in October, 1915, at the time of recognition, there was a monthly deficit of from 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 pesos in the operation of the lines under the immediate control of the Carranza Government, at the present moment the receipts are sufficient to meet operating expenses, and there is a surplus, which is devoted to the repair of the lines. In August, 1916, the income from the Government lines was virtually the same as the income during the years 1911 and 1913."

Large numbers of locomotives, passenger and freight cars have been purchased or contracted for in the United States, and many have already been delivered, while the shops in the various railroad division towns are running full capacity in the repair of damaged rolling stock. The popular idea that the railroads were practically destroyed during the revolution and that tens of millions of dollars will be required to rehabilitate them, has been demonstrated to be erroneous (one estimate placed the amount that would be needed at $50,000,000), as most of the work now being done is paid for from the receipts of the railroads. With the constantly augmenting business the balance available for betterment and repairs is increasing steadily, and it is confidently believed by those in charge of the transportation problem that very little if any outside assistance will be needed for the complete rehabilitation of the roads of the entire Republic.

ALBERTO J. PANI

Incidentally, the success achieved in the reconstruction of the railroads and the ability to carry out repairs from the receipts is a striking testimonial to the benefits of governmental operation of transportation lines. Without making any unjust or invidious comparisons, it may be said with all sincerity and truth that the various lines consolidated into the National system never were more ably and honestly handled and operated, and that never in their history were they able to show such a balance above actual cost, available for restoration and reconstruction.

THE ELECTIONS

THE elections held on the 15th of September for municipal officers in all portions of the Republic passed off quietly and from accounts received there was genuine competition and a large vote was polled. In some of the States three tickets were in the field and the competition for support was lively and unmarked by disorder. Details have only been received in a few cases, but THE REVIEW will publish as full an account as possible in an early issue. With the exception of the Madero election, this was the first absolutely free event of the kind the Republic has seen.

On October 22d the election for delegates to a Constitutional Convention that has been called by the First Chief will be held, and in anticipation political clubs are being organized all over the Republic. To the body thus elected will fall the duty of revising the Constitution, of passing upon the decrees that have been issued during the revolution, and of calling an election for President and Vice-President, preliminary to the complete restoration of Constitutional Government in the Republic, which was destroyed by Huerta and his fellow conspirators and assassins in February, 1913.

ELECTIONS FOR A CONSTITUENT CONGRESS

The First Chief has issued a call for an election of delegates to a "Constituent Congress," to to take place on Sunday, October 22. Each State and Territory is allowed one deputy at large, and an additional one for every seventy thousand inhabitants. States having more than seventy thousand inhabitants will be allowed one deputy for every twenty thousand. It is expected that the first session of the Congress will be held November 20th, and it is reported that it may take place at Coyoacan, the suburb of Mexico City which Cortez honored with the construction of a palace.

Among the duties of this Congress will be the revision of the fundamental law and the code of the Republic and the inclusion therein of the decrees that have been issued by the First Chief throughout the revolution, in order that the reforms pledged by the Constitutionalists may become law. It is expected that the Congress will also call an election for President. Under a recent decree the office of Vice-President has been abolished, and the term of President has been decreased from six to four years.

WILL NOT RETIRE

Señor Cándido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Relations, of the Cabinet of the First Chief, recently made important declarations relative to the political future that will develop in Mexico.

Interrogated on the probability that the Chief Executive in Charge might be a candidate in the coming presidential election, General Aguilar indicated that in his opinion Señor Carranza will take part in the electoral contest, in case public opinion asks it, since it is the duty of any citizen to accept whatever the people may demand of him.

It has often been said lately that Señor Carranza would leave the important post to which the Revolution has brought him, so as to enable him to enter the contest in the primaries. General Aguilar denied the statement, declaring categorically that the First Chief would continue in either case in charge of the Executive Power.

The statements of the Secretary of Foreign Relations produced a very good effect in all circles of the metropolis, because they deny the false reports that have been circulating regarding the probable retirement of Señor Carranza.

Restoration of Community Lands

Immemorial Homes of the Indians, Illegally Dispossessed Under Diaz, Being Given Back to Them as Rapidly as Possible—A Perfect System of Land Ownership

ONE of the foremost pledges given by the revolutionists was the restoration to their ancient and rightful owners of the so-called "ejidos," or community lands, which were unjustly taken from the Indians under the Diaz regime. To be sure, this theft was accomplished under the ostensible form of law and the beneficiaries of the iniquitous scheme declaim loudly about vested rights, all to no avail. These community lands were in possession of the Aboriginal owners when the Spanish Conquistadores overran the country, but ruthless as were many of the acts of those invaders, the inherent right of this immemorial ownership was always recognized, and when grants of land were made to the Spanish pioneers it was stipulated that the ownership by the Indians of the lands occupied and utilized by them since time began should be observed and protected. This was done until the time of Diaz. Land grabbers, seeing that the community tracts thus held were, as was natural, among the best in the country, secured the passage of a law, all unknown to the ignorant Indians, requiring them to appear before the authorities by a certain date and there make proof of their ownership. Failing to do so, they forfeited all right to their homes which had come down from uncounted generations in the past. Naturally enough most of the Indians knew nothing of this "law," knowledge of it was indeed kept carefully from them, and as a consequence few complied with it. Suddenly they found themselves dispossessed and homeless, and countless thousands were forced to go to work practically as slaves upon their own land and for the enrichment of the very men who had stolen it from them.

This community system of land ownership deserves, by the way, a few words of explanation, as in many respects it is almost a perfect method of landholding—at least for those who evolved it from their own necessities.

Lands thus held have come down in an unbroken line from the earliest time when tribes ceased to be nomadic and sought to establish permanent homes. Naturally choice was made of the most fertile, the best watered and the most readily cultivable locations. These lands belonged to the tribe or community as a whole and no one held individual ownership or control. The management was vested in the elders of the community. When any member desired to cultivate a given tract, as when a young couple married and set up a home, application was made to the elders and the land desired was designated by the applicant. As much was allotted to him as he wished to cultivate, the only essential being that he must actually utilize all so allotted. Otherwise it was given to some one more willing to utilize it. So long as the first applicant made use of the tract it was his to all intents and purposes. He used it exactly as if it were his own private property. Built a home, planted trees and vines on occasion and bequeathed it to his descendants. Such tracts went from father to son for generations without interference or break. But if the holder neglected to utilize his allotment any one else desiring it could apply to the elders and secure it for himself. All the community land not alloted to individuals for cultivation was the common property of the tribe as a whole and was utilized for pasturing the herds of cattle, horses, sheep and goats. The holder of an individual allotment could not sell or mortgage it. It was his to use but not to dispose of in any way.

This system, coming down from antiquity, prevailed, as stated, until the latter day land grabbers in the time of Diaz, who had long cast covetous eyes on the choice tracts held by the Indians, managed to deprive the original owners of their homes and made slaves of them.

One of the openly avowed objects of the present revolution was the restoration to their rightful owners of these "ejidos" or community lands. The revolutionists claimed that the so-called laws by which the ancient owners of these lands were despoiled were illegal, null and void, and declared they would not be recognized when they gained power. It would have been difficult doubtless to have secured the passage of laws through any Congress revoking the Diaz theft and restoring the lands to their rightful owners, but a short cut to justice was found. A successfull revolution, the Constitutionalists as well as all other revolutionists maintain, is a law unto itself. Such a success means the right of the dominant revolutionists to recognize only such laws as they see fit, to nullify those that they do not approve—especially such as those whose nullification was one of the principal objects of the movement. In this case the restoration of the community lands has been pledged as one of the foremost purposes of the revolution.

As a result, as soon as the Constitutionalists triumphed, steps were at once taken for such restoration. Commissions were appointed in the various states, claimants to community lands were instructed to appear and show the grounds for such claims, and as rapidly as possible their old lands are being restored to them. There is still much to be done in this direction, but as a result there are many happy small land owners throughout the Republic today.

Despite the often repeated assertion, heard in the United States and in foreign circles, that the peons do not want land and would not know what to do with it if given to them, there is no desire closer to the heart of the average poor native than the ownership of a bit of the soil. He does not want much. Just a few acres upon which to build a little adobe house, to raise enough corn and beans and chile and melons and so on for the sustenance of his family—that is all he wants. He is no "land hog," covetous of everything in sight and wishing ownership of many times as much as he can properly handle. A little tract, a little home that he can call his own, protected by law, as is being done, from the rapacity of the money lender and the land grabber—that is his modest ambition and that is what he is receiving as rapidly as possible under the new Government of the Republic.

IN the Federal District, the practices of card reading, palmistry and fortune-telling, professionally, have been forbidden by order of the Governor of said District. Any person violating the order is subject to severe punishment.

FOR the purpose of a general inspection and a complete study of the natural resources of the country, under order of the First Chief, through Pastor Rouaix, Sub-Secretary in charge of the Office of Public Works, the procedure of the denouncement of manganese mines has been suspended.

"Tramping Through Mexico"

"TRAMPING Through Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras," by Harry A. Franck, is one of the best books of its character that has been issued of late years. The author made his way in a more or less leisurely manner through the countries named, and in so doing was able to learn more about the real people and actual conditions than many writers whose observations were of the most casual character, and who seldom if ever ventured far from the beaten routes of travel.

There has been a surfeit of books written by those whose knowledge of Mexico and its people was derived from a "tourist trip" of a fortnight or so, and whose opportunities for observation were for the most part confined to the rear platform of a Pullman car. Few have done as has Mr. Franck—associated with the people, lived with them, traveled with them, imbibed their viewpoint. The author, as have others who have taken a like course, has learned that the well-nigh universally accepted idea that all Mexicans hate all Americans with a deep and bitter hatred, is not accurate. He has learned that Mexicans are actually and in truth not so very different from other human beings in other portions of the world—they appreciate and respond to kind and just treatment, the proper treatment of one human being by another—and they are also sensitive to a degree and respond in kind to ill-treatment. Foreigners who regard Mexicans, even the lowliest, as brother humans, entitled to treatment as such, never find cause to complain and never find any of that deep-seated hatred so often harped upon by ignorant writers and speakers. On the contrary, they find, as did the author, that there are few if any people so ready to respond to kindliness and courtesy and so faithful to friends or employers (and all employers should be their friends) as are the common people of Mexico. And the same holds true of all classes. Mr. Franck's conclusions in this matter will be borne out by all foreigners who have had his experience.

Some of his conclusions will perhaps be scarcely agreed to by those who have lived in the country longer than he, but any mistakes he may have made are of a minor character and negligible. On the whole the book is noteworthy in correcting many of the erroneous ideas popularly held regarding the region dealt with, and is to be commended to the consideration of those wishing to learn the truth.

NEWS has been received that the Mexican Government has acquired three large machines with accessories for the manufacture of explosives for the use of the army, which are shortly to be transported to the Port of Vera Cruz. The Mexican engineers who represented the Government in the purchase are personally supervising the work of transportation of the machines, which are of the most modern and costly type.

BENJAMIN G. HILL, Military Commandant, recently submitted a petition to the First Chief, asking that the Governing Board of Commerce of the City of Mexico be abolished. The reasons for said petition are that from the beginning of the Board's existence it has exceeded its commercial liberty, and consequently its expenses reported to the exchequer for employees and inspectors in connection with industrial and commercial subjects, have been heavy and without any benefit. In accordance with this recommendation the First Chief has abolished the Board.

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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NOTE AND COMMENT

THE REVIEW has received many kind expressions of appreciation from those who sympathize with its purposes and who are aware to what a lamentable extent wrong impressions regard-Mexico prevail among otherwise well-informed people. The purpose of this publication—to do whatever lies within its power to correct this evil—is commended by all true friends of right and justice.

IT is the purpose of THE REVIEW to take up each State in detail, as soon as possible, and to give the facts regarding its resources, attractions, social, industrial and political conditions, with especial reference to the reforms inaugurated as a result of the revolution. It is believed that this plan will aid materially in correcting misapprehensions regarding the country, and every effort will be used to give an accurate picture of existing conditions.

"WHEN the white man governs himself, that is self-government; but when he governs himself and also governs another man, that is despotism." These words of the immortal Lincoln are respectfully commended to the earnest consideration of Americans and others who seem to fancy they have a God-given right to force the Mexicans or any other alien race to order their lives, their social, political and industrial affairs, as they (the foreigners) may see fit.

THE REVIEW wishes to commend the accounts of the Mexican-American conference appearing in the New York Evening Post as types of careful, truthful and non-sensational reporting. The Post's correspondent (Mr. David Lawrence) gives evidence of the possession of an accurate conception of the situation and of an intention to avoid anything of a misleading or sensational character that is truly refreshing. The Post has always been distinguished for its impartiality in handling the Mexican situation from the very commencement of the troubles in that country and deserves the commendation of every truth lover for its consistent course in this direction.

THE extraordinarily contradictory not to say absurd reports regarding Mexican happenings that have emanated from El Paso during the past few weeks, only confirm the belief entertained by those who are in a position to know the truth, that it is a perfectly safe assertion that fully 99 per cent of the "stories" bearing that date are not worthy of a moment's credence. They are for the most part either entirely untrue or gross exaggerations. And this applies to similiar reports for the past six years. Apparently no rumor is too flimsy, too absurd, too impossible on its very face not to find some correspondent willing to send it out as fact. El Paso has earned an unenviable reputation as an utterly unreliable source of information.

Heart-to-Heart Talk with Foreigners in Mexico

BY ONE OF THEM

LADIES and gentlemen—fellow-countrywomen and fellow-countrymen—foreigners—Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, Russians, Austrians, Italians, Swedes, Norwegians, Arabians, Chinese, Japanese, Martians, Altrurians—whatever and wherever be your place of birth: Let us get together and have a little intimate, heart-to-heart conversation.

We are all foreigners in a foreign country. We are guests of another nation. We are in practically the same situation as the guests in a private residence, and as such we are under certain unwritten obligations.

We have come to this country from our own from various motives. Some of us came from reasons of health, some from curiosity, others from one cause or another, but the great majority of us came here because we believed the opportunities for business enterprise were more attractive and promised a better reward than in our own country—whatever that may be. If any of us came from any altruistic motive, he has kept that motive well concealed.

This is not the time or place to indulge in discussions of the events of the past six years. The past is dead. Let it bury its dead. Most of us have rather decided opinions regarding those events, many of them of a radically opposite and antagonistic character. But discussion and argument are useless, fruitless and a waste of time.

Accomplished facts are facts. It is no longer a theory but a condition that confronts us.

That condition is plain:

Certain things, whether we like them or not, are accomplished facts. We cannot undo them. They may not be undone by their very character. The world does not move backward. Evolution, of whatever kind, political or material, always advances, never recedes.

Is it not then the part of wisdom to recognize these facts and decide to make the best of the situation thus created?

We all want peace. There is no gainsaying such a plain fact. From a purely selfish standpoint we desire it above all else. Those of us who are engaged in business cannot carry out our various projects except by the establishment and maintenance of peace. We may not like the way that peace is being secured. We may not like those who have secured it, or are in a fair way to secure it. On the other hand we may like the methods and admire those who are pursuing them. It makes no difference.

But that should not be considered. The time is past for any argument or any difference of opinion. We want peace, and as a purely selfish proposition we should do all we can to secure and maintain it.

Then, and then only, can normal conditions be restored and business again be carried on in its accustomed channels and with its customary commensurate and even liberal rewards.

More than this: We are as stated at the outset, strangers in a strange land, guests of a neighbor, whether invited or uninvited. As such guests we owe certain obligations. We owe it not to openly, harshly, and unnecessarily criticise the house-keeping or house-cleaning methods of our hosts; their political opinions, their political acts, or their political or personal conduct. We owe it to our hosts to refrain from so conducting ourselves as to make unpleasantly manifest our own conceit as superior beings—if we have that conceit. We owe it to our hosts to conduct ourselves in a most self-respecting manner—as men and women with a due regard for the feelings and the rights of others, most of all of the owners of the country in which we are guests.

And we owe it to our hosts, just as we owe it to an individual host when a guest in his home, to depart at once if we find our surroundings unpleasant or uncomfortable. Surely, it is the height of discourtesy to remain and to openly criticise the conduct and household arrangements of our host, to talk about them in an unfriendly and critical manner, and especially to endeavor in any way to arouse antagonism toward him among those who have no opportunity to judge for themselves by personal experience and observation.

Let us then make up our minds to accept the inevitable, to accept the undoubtedly accomplished facts, to cease or refrain from unfriendly criticism, to seek to find good and not evil motives, and to devote all our energies to the restoration of peace, which will surely bring prosperity.

Our own selfish interests demand it.

Let us then join the great unorganized "Get-Together Club."

Let us "boost" and not "knock."

In a word, let us act like sensible men and women and not like peevish children, who do not find their surroundings altogether in accord with their childish likes and dislikes.

Or if we cannot do that, let us quietly and promptly betake ourselves to some other country where matters are conducted more in accord with our own desires.

We owe it to our hosts to do this.

We owe it to our own self-respect.

We owe it to our own fellow-countrymen who are content to accept the situation.

REPORTS recently found wide circulation in the American press that the cities of Victoria, capital of the State of Tamaulipas, and Durango, capital of the State of the same name, had been captured by enemies of the Constitutionalist government. There was not a word of truth in these rumors. In neither State is there any force capable of such a movement, yet doubtless thousands of newspaper readers are fully persuaded of the accuracy of the reports noted.

SOME very misleading reports have found currency in the press regarding the recent threatened strike of railway and other public utility employees in Mexico. The fact is, exactly the same course was pursued in that country as was followed in France several years ago when a general strike of railway employes was threatened. The operatives were informed that their service was of a military character and that any refusal to obey orders would be treated as a military offense. No one was executed in Mexico for striking or proposing to strike. One individual who sought to persuade the workers in the government ammunition factory to abandon their posts in the face of the grave situation which demanded the utmost energy in such direction, was tried and found guilty under the sedition law, but was not executed. Incidentally, the wages of the public utility employees were increased fifty per cent after the trouble had ended, showing that the Government was perfectly willing to do what was right in the matter.

EMILE POHLI

THE sudden death of Mr. Emile Pohli in San Francisco recently was the cause of the deepest regret to the numerous friends whom he had acquired in Mexico. He had endeared himself to all whom he met by his straightforward character, his genial companionship and his sincere friendship toward a country which he felt should be left to work out its own salvation in the same manner that has been followed by every nation in history. His untimely passing was a distinct loss.

Expropriation of Lands for New Pueblos

THE restoration of the old "ejidos," or community lands, to their rightful owners is explained in full elsewhere in THE REVIEW. Commissioner Bonillas has given this magazine some interesting and valuable information upon the methods adopted for the establishment of new pueblos or communal lands for people desiring them in localities where none had previously existed. The method followed is the application of the right of eminent domain for the use of the public. When a sufficient number of citizens petition the authorities to establish a new pueblo and allot them lands for cultivation and grazing purposes, a suitable tract is selected which is already the property of the nation in some instances, and the applicants are given small tracts commensurate with their needs and sufficient for the sustenance of a family.

But if there are no available public lands in the locality, a selection is made of a tract in private ownership. Such lands are as a rule those of which the owner makes no productive use. He is notified of the selection and on his own behalf is invited to appoint an appraiser. One is also selected on behalf of the Government and each makes separate investigation and fixes a price which he deems equitable. If the values vary, an effort is made to bring the appraisers to an agreement. But if they cannot agree, the two in unison select a third appraiser, and after investigation he reports the result of his judgment. Usually an agreement is reached with little difficulty, and the price determined is thereupon paid to the owner and the land passes to the new pueblo. But if the three cannot agree, then the values affixed by each are added together and divided by three, thus arriving at an average. This is paid to the owner and the land is then allotted to the applicants. They cannot sell, mortgage or in any way dispose of their allotments except by bequest to an heir in case of death. In this manner the holders are protected against the rapacity of land grabbers and also from the possible consequences of their own ignorance and improvidence. The applicant to whom the land is allotted retains possession so long as he cultivates the tract and no longer.

Oil Development by the Government

AS a measure of economy and in order to meet the great and constantly increasing demand for fuel, oil and gasoline in its various departments, such as the railroads, etc., the Government is now engaged in sinking oil wells in the Tampico region, with the best prospect for success. These wells are located in the so-called "Zona Maritima," a belt of land twenty meters (sixty-five and one-half feet) in width extending inland from extreme high-water mark. This belt is by law reserved exclusively to the nation as its special property and can not be alienated from public ownership, although permits or leases for its use by private parties or companies are legal. But it cannot pass into private ownership, nor can the beds of rivers, lakes or bays. It is true concessions have been illegally granted in the past purporting to convey private ownership to such lands, and some were transferred under the Huerta regime in order to set up a shadow of title thereto and perhaps afford ground for international complications. But the law is very plain and the present Government does not propose to recognize or tolerate its violation.

As soon as a sufficient flow of oil shall have been secured, and of this there can be no doubt, a refinery will be established and the large quantities of gasoline at present only procurable at high cost from outside sources for government use will be furnished at cost of production and no more. It is expected that over a hundred thousand dollars in gold will be saved monthly for fuel oil only through the completion of these wells by the authorities, while in time there is no reason to doubt that the Government will itself be able to enter the export field, since the proven oil territory that it can develop is of very large extent and easily accessible.

ELISEO ARREDONDO

Ambassador Designate Arredondo

DON ELISEO ARREDONDO, Ambassador Designate of Mexico to the United States, is a native of the little Coahuilan town of Cuatro Ciénegas, in which community a decade or more before Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Army of Mexico, himself first saw the light. Mr. Arredondo is a near relative of Mr. Carranza. His preliminary education was acquired in the Institute of "El Ateneo Fuente." Later he attended law school and graduated with distinction at the National Capital.

Shortly after graduation, Mr. Arredondo was elected successively Judge in the districts of Monclova, Rio Grande and Viesca, and later on, Federal Judge for the State of Coahuila, with residence at Piedras Negras. Here he served from 1904 to 1909, in which year he resigned, in view of the malevolent intervention in the affairs of the State by the Diaz Government.

Thereupon Mr. Arredondo entered upon the private practice of his profession in Torreón, only to resume office in the year 1914 when the Constitutionalists became successful. He was appointed Sub-Secretary of the Department of Gobernación (Interior). In 1913, having retired from executive office, he was elected to the Federal Congress from the Monclova district, but his legislative career was abruptly terminated by the overthrow of Madero, upon which occasion Mr. Arredondo united himself with the new revolutionist government set up by Mr. Carranza, whom he served in a confidential capacity, performing numerous delicate and dangerous missions for the First Chief.

In 1915 he was designated Confidential Agent of the Constitutionalist Government at Washington, and in the autumn of that year received the highest diplomatic honor in the gift of the Mexican Government, Ambassador to the United States.

Owners of Large Tracts Seeking Purchasers

WITH the assurance that for the first time in the history of the country a system of adequate land valuation and taxation will be carried out by the Constitutionalist Government without concession or special privilege to any, but that all will be put upon an equal basis and treated alike, many of those who have in the past held vast tracts only a small portion of which was utilized, are already seeking to dispose of portions of their holdings. The exact plan of taxation has not yet been announced, but assurance has been given that it will not be onerous beyond the fact that a land owner who has never been forced to pay a tax is certain to consider any contribution of the kind a burden too grievous to be borne.

It is proposed to adopt a just system of assessment, grading it according to the quality of the land, and then to levy a tax in accordance with the varying needs of the Government from year to year, just as is done elsewhere. But no lands will escape bearing their due portion of the cost of government.

It is expected that under this system there will be little difficulty in securing sites for many new pueblos at a comparatively moderate outlay, such lands to be thereafter allotted to actual cultivators under the communal plan of non-individual ownership in fee, though with perpetual title or right so long as the holder shall make good use thereof by cultivation.

There has been some suggestion that land owners be asked to fix their own valuation, for purposes of taxation, as in New Zealand, and that this valuation be taken by the Government as the price to be paid the holders in case any of their lands are needed for the establishment of pueblos. This absolutely fair and equitable plan is supported by many who are unable to see the justice of a system which permits a low valuation when the Government seeks a contribution for the support and defense of the country, but a much higher one when it is called upon to reimburse the owner for land needed for the benefit of the common people.

The fact that land owners are already seeking purchasers is a potent indication of what the result will be when an equitable system of land taxation shall be put into operation.

Mexican Mining Taxes

Designed to Discourage Monopolization of Mineral Resources and Consequent Prevention of Development

UNDER Spanish law all minerals underneath the surface were the property of the Crown and those who exploited them were required to pay a goodly percentage (one-fifth) to the King for the privilege.

When Mexico gained her independence the minerals became the property of the nation, except coal and oil, but the payment to the government for the exploitation privilege was materially lessened.

The owner of the surface of the land does not own the mineral, and the latter is subject to denunciation by any one, subject to payment for damage done to property of the surface owner.

The new production tax, as established by decree of May 1, 1916, is fixed at 10 per cent ad valorem on gold and silver and 5 per cent on copper and other metals. The old tax averaged 4½ per cent.

It is one-half the amount exacted as the royal tribute under Spanish domination, and is in reality a still much smaller proportionate tax when the superior modern methods of extraction and refining are considered, whereby the recovery is far in excess of anything known in primitive mining experience.

Mining operators in Mexico also enjoy two other distinct advantages over those in the United States. One is that while the ores treated are uniformly of much greater value in the former country, the labor costs are from 25 to 75 per cent less. There are no local municipal, district or State taxes to pay in Mexico except upon the actual plant, while in the United States such taxation is as a rule not light. This too is the case in Canada, where there are both Federal and local taxes upon mines and their production.

For purposes of comparison it may be stated that the Canadian Federal tax on production was 13 per cent before the present war, and is now understood to be considerably higher.

The old Mexican tax on mineral bearing lands taken up under the mining law was $6 per pertenencia. (A pertenencia is the unit of a mining claim and equals 2½ acres.)

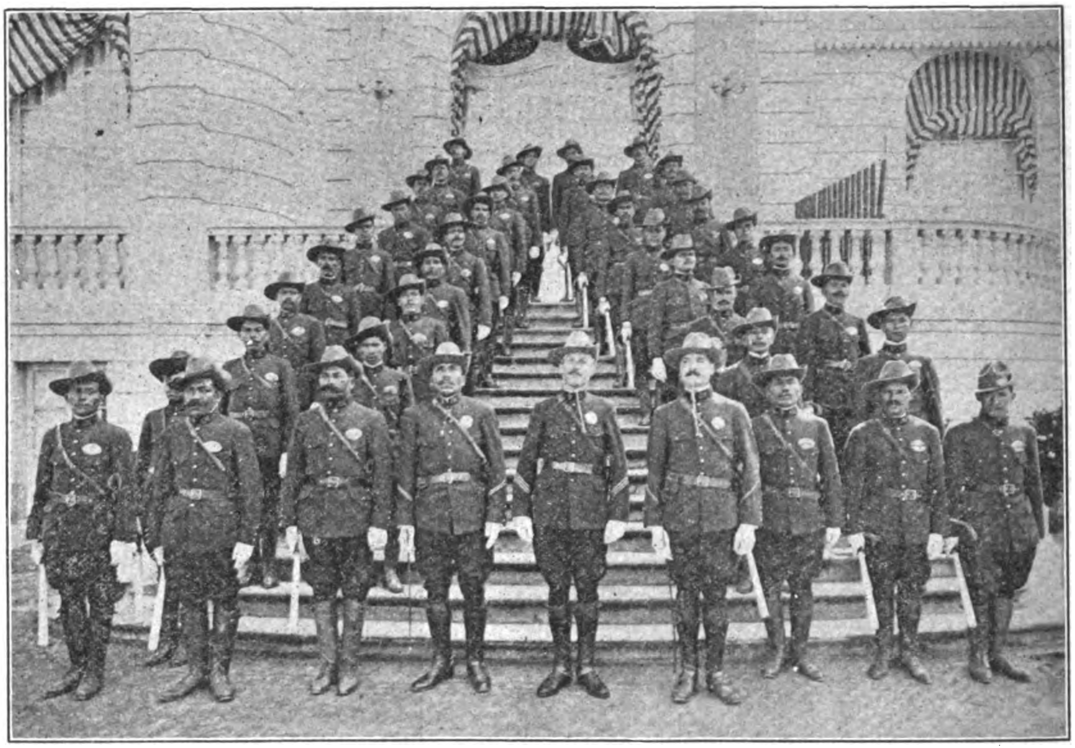
The new tax is graduated and becomes proportionately heavier the greater the extent of the holding, the avowed purpose being to discourage the old system of holding extensive tracts of mineral bearing lands and preventing others from exploiting them. Many foreign companies, under the old system, held tens of thousands of acres while only developing a small percentage thereof.

That the tax is not onerous or confiscatory can be seen by a little calculation. On the first ten pertenencias or 25 acres, the total annual payment is $60 Mexican, or $30 American gold. On the next 40 pertenencias it is $480 Mex., or $240 American. On the next 50 it is $900 Mex., $450 American. On a total of 500 pertenencias, or 1250 acres, amply sufficient for a very good sized mine, the total annual tax is $11,040 Mex., $5520 American. On each 500 pertenencias in addition to the first 500 the total annual tax is $12,000 Mex., or $6000 American. While there are no data immediately available regarding American mining taxes, those varying according to locality, there being no Federal tax, it is believed the Mexican levy will compare favorably with those of any of the American mining States and with the taxes paid by some of the very companies that are objecting to the demands of Mexico.

Many of the richest and most productive mines in the Republic have not more than one or two hundred pertenencias under ownership, while there are numerous mines with less than one hundred. The control of vast areas is not necessary and is a distinct damage to the nation as a whole.

THE decree of September 14, which has aroused much unjust comment because its provisions were not clearly understood, the text not having been translated and published until within a few days, recites that the old laws were distinctly in favor of the monopolists and against exploitation of the mineral resources of the country by small capitalists or individuals, while the large operators concerned themselves more with stock market speculation than with legitimate mining development. Under the old law the large mine owners had it in their power by concerted action to seriously hamper the Government in the work of restoring order and establishing normal conditions by applying for foreign interference when their interests were in no real danger and by closing down their mines in concert for the purpose of conveying a wrong impression regarding affairs in Mexico. To remedy these evils, the new decree stipulates that all mine owners are required to operate their properties continuously and must not suspend operations more than two consecutive months or for separated periods amounting to more than three months in any one year. Miners who have just cause for suspending operations can appeal to the Department of Fomento, and upon showing good reason for such suspension can secure permission for its continuance so long as the reasons shall exist. Otherwise their property will be forfeited to the Government and may be thrown open for denunciation or the Government may elect to operate it for the benefit of the nation. The Department of Fomento is also given power to designate the minimum number of men who shall be employed upon any mining property, that number being proportioned to the number of pertenencias held in single ownership. This is designed still further to discourage the old practice of holding immense tracts of mineral land and preventing its development by others.

The decree explicitly states that the working of mines pertains to public utility and the right to develope mineral deposits is granted with the explicit understanding that a given number of men shall be employed in accordance with the area covered by denunciation by a single concern.



THE CHAPULTEPEC POLICE FORCE.

THE baseball fever has taken a strong hold in Yucatan, and many clubs have been organized, their members being enthusiastic devotees of the sport. Matches are being arranged for the coming season, such season including the so-called "winter months" of the north.

No War Risks on West Coast Freight

THE report has been widely circulated and received general credence that it is necessary to insure against war risk all freight from the United States to the West Coast of Mexico or South America passing over the Tehuantepec Railway from Puerto Mexico to Salina Cruz for reshipment, while such insurance is not necessary upon goods passing through the Panama Canal. Careful inquiry regarding the matter discloses the fact since November 1910, when the present revolutionary troubles began, *there has not been a single case in which merchandise going by this route has been lost or injured.* The road is being operated regularly and with safety and there is no occasion whatever for shippers to pay war risk premiums.

THE legislature of the State of Coahuila has enacted a law requiring the owners of houses in Saltillo, the capital of that Commonwealth, to provide water and drainage in dwelling houses and prescribing a severe penalty for a failure to do so.

"ARTICLE 33"

Provision of the Mexican Constitution Under Which "Pernicious Foreigners" May Be and Are Sometimes Expelled

READERS of Mexican news dispatches occasionally note references to a certain "Article 33," always in connection with the deportation of foreigners from that country.

There is more or less misinformation in circulation in connection with the operation of the law referred to and for the benefit of those seeking the facts the constitutional provision is given in full, as found in the organic law of the Republic adopted under the leadership of Benito Juarez in 1857:

> "Article 33. Those not possessing the qualifications determined in Article 30 are foreigners. They have the right to the guarantees stipulated in Section 1, Title 1, of the present constitution, save that in all cases the Government has the power to *expel the pernicious foreigner*. They are under obligation to contribute to the public expenses, in the manner directed by law, and to obey and respect the institutions, laws and authorities of the country, and to submit to the decisions and sentences of the tribunals, without power of resorting to other recourse than the laws concede to Mexicans."

The references in the foregoing to other provisions of the constitution merely have to do with the definition of what constitutes citizenship and its rights and duties in the Republic.

The power to apply Article 33 rests solely with the Chief Executive of the nation. No legal proceedings are required and no appeal can be taken or revision secured of the order from any source whatever. It is a purely arbitrary act, though in some cases the request and assurances of foreign diplomatic representatives have resulted in securing the revocation of such an order, though this is seldom done.

Whenever a foreigner makes himself seriously obnoxious for any reason, it may be reported to the executive head of the nation, and if he should decide that the case is one meriting the deportation of the "pernicious" one, an order is issued, the foreigner is taken into custody wherever found, and sent out of the country by the first train or steamer, as the case may be.

This provision of the Constitution has been enforced by every Mexican executive from Juarez down, and has even been applied to foreign diplomatic representatives. At various times newspaper correspondents have been deported under it, but such cases have been for gross offences in the way of sending out false reports calculated to arouse undeserved ill feeling between Mexico and other countries, and in some instances for libelous and untruthful attacks upon national officials.

The word "Thirty-threed" has been coined to designate the fate of any "pernicious foreigner" against whom such peremptory action is taken, and the expression "Given Article Thirty-three with the alternative of being subjected to Article Thirty-thirty," grew out of certain summary expulsions enforced under Villa while at the height of his brief power. Any one having knowledge of the common designation of certain weapons of warfare can appreciate the grim humor of this expression.

As a rule those subjected to the operation of Article 33 have laid themselves liable to severe penalties under the laws of Mexico for some offence or other, and expulsion is substituted for the punishment justly incurred largely because of the mere fact that the offender is a foreigner as well as because of a desire on the part of the authorities to avoid so far as possible anything that might be characterized as harsh treatment or lead to long drawn out diplomatic controversies. Indeed, it is a fact that will be attested by fair minded foreigners who have had long experience in Mexico that the authorities of that country not infrequently permit outsiders and non-citizens a very much wider latitude in misbehavior than they tolerate from their own fellow-countrymen.

The right of a Government to exclude foreigners considered for any reason to be pernicious or objectionable is based upon the same fundamental right possessed by every man to exclude from his own home any outsider whose presence is not considered desirable. The application of Article 33 is used only as a last resort, and when the subject of its application has so conducted himself as to make his further presence in the country a distinct menace to the welfare of the nation.

Foreigners in the Constitutionalist Army

APROPOS to some statements that have obtained widespread and more or less authoritative circulation regarding foreigners of certain nationalities in Mexico, and more especially in the army, THE REVIEW is prepared to maintain the truth of the following:

There are less than 2,500 Japanese all told in the entire Republic of Mexico.

Of Chinese, there are more or less fifteen to twenty thousand in the Republic.

In the army there are perhaps a half dozen Japanese officers—one an aide on the staff of General Gonzales, one a subordinate in the command of that General, and the others filling minor positions.

There are possibly a couple of score Japanese private soldiers in the ranks, and there are half a dozen Chinese as well, but like the officers referred to, they were in the revolutionary army under Madero and were forced to take out papers as naturalized Mexican citizens before their services were accepted by the Constitutionalists.

Carranza, at one time early in the revolution, had an opportunity to secure the services of a large number of Japanese and other foreigners, but positively and promptly declined to accept the offer.

There is one so-called "German" officer in the army—General Klose. But although of German parentage, he is Mexican born and also a Mexican citizen—as indeed are all the very few foreigners in the army. If there are any more Germans in the Constitutionalist forces, outsiders who like the writer have had every opportunity since the outbreak of the revolution against Huerta to become familiar with the fact, if it were a fact, have failed to note anything that would in any way justify the sensational reports on this subject.

The stories regarding large numbers of foreigners in the forces of the various leaders are for the most part fables. Villa was credited with having some 1,500 American and other soldiers of fortune with him during the Torreon campaign—but a careful census made by the newspaper correspondents disclosed just fifteen! And this is about the proportion of truth to falsehood in most of the sensational statements in this as well as other respects that have received widespread credence. There has been just about one per cent of truth to 99 per cent of fable.

"IF!"

Prominent Republican Declares Non-Intervention Is the Fixed Policy of Republicanism

A. E. L. LECKIE

A GREAT deal of speculation is being indulged in by those who are interested in any way in Mexican affairs as to the probable effect upon our policy regarding the sister Republic of a change in the political complexion of the national administration at the coming election. The result of that election is of course "upon the knees of the gods," and the impartial or politically unbiassed man hesitates to forecast results. But upon the supposition or possibility that not only a President but a Congress of the opposite political faith from the present administration may be chosen, friends of the Mexican people are beginning to consider what effect such a change may have upon the future of Mexico.

As a Republican of wide acquaintance with prominent leaders of the Republican party, I feel sure that any change in the political complexion of the national administration would have no adverse effect on the Mexican Government or the people of that nation. The reasons for this belief are not far to seek.

It may be safely stated, and this is not hearsay, but the deliberate opinion of prominent Republican leaders, that the Republican party, if it comes into power next March, has no intention of intervening in Mexico, or in any wise trenching upon the sovereignty of that country. Its concern simply will be to see that the wrongs American citizens in that country have already suffered are righted as soon as possible, and to obtain proper guarantees in the future, both as to life and property.

The fact is that practically all prominent men in the United States, in and out of Congress, as well as the political leaders of both parties, abhor intervention in Mexico. It is true there are a few Congressmen, mostly from the border States, who are clamoring for intervention, but their counsel cannot prevail against the sober common-sense and friendly feeling of the great mass of the American people for the neighboring nation south of the Rio Grande. There are also some few newspapers that are agitating intervention, but the press of the United States as a rule takes the opposite view.

First of all, it is thought in well informed circles in Washington that the Joint Commission now arranging the international relations between Mexico and the United States will have finished its work and put these relations between the two countries upon a firm and lasting neighborly basis, and that by the time the Republicans may come into power next March, Mexico, under the administration of General Carranza, will be well on the road toward peace and prosperity. In these circumstances there would manifestly be no possible reason for the United States to interfere in Mexican affairs.

But even should the Joint Commission fail to arrange an amicable settlement of the differences between the two countries, which is almost inconceivable, and disorders should still continue along the international line and in the interior of Mexico, if the Republicans assume the control of the Government next March, Mr. Hughes undoubtedly would make further efforts toward a peaceful settlement of the questions between the two Republics, and would exhaust all fair and honorable means to bring about a proper understanding.

"GRINGO" AND "GREASER"

Also "Spiggoties"—Some Plain Talk on a Subject Upon Which Plain Talk Is Greatly Needed—Words That Should Be Tabooed

AMONG the many widespread misapprehensions generally held in the United States regarding things Mexican is the true meaning of the word "Gringo" and its common usage as applied to foreigners, as compared with the use of the word "Greaser" in speaking of Mexicans. There have been many explanations of the alleged origin of the appellation "Gringo" in description of foreigners, some fanciful and not to be credited. The one that appears to have the most reasonable and logical foundation is this: When English-speaking foreigners began coming to Mexican ports, they found the people with whom they came in contact unable to understand their language, just as they were unable to understand the vernacular of the Mexicans. When addressed by one of the natives in a language they did not understand, they quite naturally used the familiar expression, "It all Greek to me." Greek in Spanish is "griego," and what more natural than that the Mexicans hearing that word used so much, came to speak of the foreigners using it as "Griegos," which easily became corrupted into "Gringos."

As used today, while it is sometimes meant as a term of opprobrium, this is not always the case. The writer lived for over a year in a small Mexican town where he was the only foreigner. When the time came for him to depart a friend told him: "You are known to every native for a hundred miles around here. They all know you as "El Gringo" (meaning "the foreigner"), and that is what they call you, as your name is difficult for them to handle. They are all your friends, as in your business you have treated them fairly and even liberally, and they mean nothing insulting by calling you "El Gringo"—only that you are *the* foreigner—the only one in this town."

An illustration of the statement that the term "Gringo" is not by any means solely used as an intentional insult and that it does not from its very nature carry opprobrium with its application, is the use made of it on occasion in family circles and as a term of affection. Mexican women with American or English husbands uniformly refer to them when wishing to show their regard for their spouses as "Mi Gringito"—literally "My little Gringo," but carrying with it the implied word "Dear." Thus, it really means "My dear little Gringo." In the same way, children when wishing to be affectionate call their father "Papacito," or their mother "Mamacita"—"Dear little papa" or "Dear little mama." But if the husband of a Mexican woman should undertake to use the word "Greaser" in like fashion—well, it would be better for him that he had never been born, or at all events that he had never heard the objectionable epithet. Mexican women are as a rule long suffering and patient, but they would draw the line with considerable emphasis at the application of such a word to them, even in fun.

On the other hand, the use of the word "Greaser" as applied to Mexicans is by its very nature an insult, is meant that way, and is assuredly taken as such and quite properly resented. No man with any sense of courtesy or gentlemanliness in his composition will ever be guilty of using this term. THE REVIEW has noted with a sense of mortification that not a few writers who certainly ought to know better make frequent use of this insulting word when speaking of men who are in every way their equals—perhaps their superiors in all that makes for the ordinary courtesies and considerations due from one man to another. If there is ever to be the friendship and kindliness of feeling that should subsist between next-door neighbors, such expressions as this should be rigidly eschewed, at least by those laying claim to culture, not to say common courtesy. And the editors of THE REVIEW appeal to their co-laborers among newspapers and magazines to put the objectionable word on the "*Index Expurgatorius.*" No self-respecting publication should permit it to appear in its pages.

Another appellation sometimes used by writers in referring to Mexicans and some other people for whom they wish to demonstrate their contempt as well as their own vast seperiority is "spiggoty." Why "spiggoty" no one has ever been able to explain to the writer, though he has frequently asked those using the word to give its origin. Its use is more or less akin to the practice of some superior caucasians in calling all persons whose complexion is darker than theirs, "niggers." And its use also demonstrates beyond question the callousness and utter lack of anything like fine sensibilities on the part of the user.

Publications with any pretensions toward a high standard ought to eschew the use of either of the opprobrious epithets, no matter whether their contributors offer them or not.

All Minerals the Property of the Government

CERTAIN mining regulations adopted by the Constitutionalist Government recently have attracted considerable attention, and there has been more or less comment disclosing ignorance regarding the laws of Mexico governing such matters.

Under the old Spanish law all minerals underneath the surface were the property of the crown, and those desiring to exploit such deposits were obliged to secure permission from the government to do so, paying therefor a certain percentage or royalty for the privilege—20 per cent.

After independence from the parent country was achieved these mineral deposits became the property of the Federal Government, with the exception of the coal and oil measures. The sale or granting of public lands to an individual does not carry with it the ownership of the mineral that may underlie it, and an outsider can go upon such land and denounce a mineral claim, giving bond to the owner for any damage that he may cause. The Federal government must also be recompensed in the shape of annual taxes for the privilege of exploiting the minerals, and that privilege is now as always subject to forfeiture for non-payment of such contributions.

Besides the underlying minerals with the exceptions noted, the Federal Government is the inalienable owner of the beds of all the navigable rivers, lakes, bays and canals.

"IS VILLA ALIVE"?

THIS question has been asked of one of the editors of THE REVIEW more frequently, since his recent arrival from Mexico, than any other of the many queries that have been propounded.

It is over five months since the Columbus affair, and nearly that period has elapsed since any credible evidence of Villa's existence has been presented. In one of the encounters a few days after the raid it is known positively that the bandit leader was badly wounded. Then he dropped out of sight, and while his name has of late been used in connection with various bandit gangs that have been making trouble in a portion of Chihuahua, no reliable person has been found who affirms with positiveness that he has seen and recognized him.

No one who knows Villa personally, as does the writer, can believe for a moment that a person of his disposition could by any possibility remain in hiding for any length of time unless seriously wounded. He would have appeared in many centers of population and would have been seen and identified by many not his friends and who would inevitably have made the fact known. Villa's personality and appearance are too striking to admit of successful disguise and any one who has known him would recognize him in spite of almost any attempt to conceal his identity.

If he were wounded and in hiding, that fact too would have been known to hundreds if not thousands in far less time than has elapsed since his first disappearance. Even in the remote fastnesses of the Sierra Madre, sparsely settled as that region is, news travels rapidly. As an instance, the writer several years ago was journeying in these mountains with only a mozo as a guide and companion, and was making good progress daily. Yet not infrequently he entered Indian villages of the smallest size and in the most secluded sections and to his astonishment found that the people had known of his coming two or three days beforehand. News travels fast and far among the natives, strangers are the objects of great curiosity, and if Villa had been in hiding as has been supposed his presence would have been widely known both to friends and enemies inside of a very few weeks.

Yet as stated, five months or thereabouts have elapsed since there has been any definite reliable information regarding him. If indeed he be alive, he has shown a most remarkable ability to keep that fact a secret. Indeed, it would have been well nigh practically impossible.

But the customary non-committal reply to a difficult question is appropriate in this connection: "Quien sabe?"

And by the way, the native pronunciation of the name is *Vee*-yah.

STRINGENT orders have been issued by General Obregon, Secretary of War, forbidding traffic by any one in uniforms, arms, ammunition or other property belonging to the Government whose only legitimate use is for public purposes.

"IT would be zoologically unconventional for a jackass to have horse sense," says a funnygrapher. But if the average horse had the good common sense of the average jackass—vide the Mexican burro—he would be more nearly human than he is. To use the language of the "range:" The average burro has the average horse "skinned a mile" when it comes down to good hard horse sense.

How Damage Claims will be Settled

Those of Mexicans by a Purely Mexican Commission—Those of Foreigners by a Mixed Commission—Text of Decree on Subject

VERY early in the revolution the matter of claims for damages suffered or alleged to have been suffered by both foreigners and Mexicans became a subject for consideration, and as a result the following decree was issued covering the entire subject:

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, to the inhabitants of the Republic, know ye:

That by virtue of the extraordinary faculties with which I am empowered, I have seen fit to decree as follows:

Art. 1. The right of all Mexican and foreign citizens to demand payment for damages suffered during the Revolution of 1910, that is to say, during the period from November 21, 1910, to May 31, 1911, is hereby acknowledged.

Art. 2. The same right of Mexican and foreign citizens to demand payment for damages suffered and which they may continue suffering during the present struggle, that is to say, from February 19th of the current year up to the time when constitutional order is re-established, is also acknowledged.

Art. 3. The same right of foreign citizens to demand payment for damages suffered, done by revolutionary forces or groups of armed men, during the period from May 31, 1911, to February 19th of the current year, is also acknowledged.

Art. 4. As soon as the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army assumes charge of the Executive Power upon his arrival in the capital of the Republic and in accordance with the Plan of Guadalupe, he will name a committee made up of Mexican citizens, charged with receiving, consulting and awarding the amounts for damages suffered during the periods spoken of in Articles 1 and 2 of this decree.

Art. 5. Once the committee mentioned in the foregoing article is appointed, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in common with the diplomatic or special representative named by each country to which the foreign citizens damaged belong, will name a committee made up of Mexican and foreign citizens, equal in number, who will be charged with receiving, consulting and awarding the claims to be filed, in accordance with the provisions of the first three articles of this decree.

Art. 6. The manner, terms of time and conditions governing the payment for damages suffered, as well as the organization and conduct of the proceedings to be followed by the committees, will be determined by a special law to be issued in due course.

Therefore, I order it to be printed, published, circulated and duly complied with.

Given at General Headquarters in the city of Monclova, on the 10th day of May, 1913.—*V. Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army.*

IN many portions of Mexico baseball is becoming a favorite game with young men, and the scores reported show that they are good players. Two clubs in Merida, capital of Yucatan, played matches with a score of 10 to 8 for the first and 5 to 6 for the second game. Not so bad! Bullfighting is falling into disrepute in many sections and in some States is prohibited.

Street Car Traffic in Mexico City

Some Features That Might Be Adopted in Other Countries with Distinct Advantage to the Public

THE difference in the manuer with which street car passengers are treated in Mexico and in the United States is remarked by every one who has had personal experience in this direction. In too many American cities conductors of surface, subway and elevated cars or trains are as a rule brusque, to say the least, in their manners. Passengers are ordered in most peremptory manner to "Move up in front," "Step lively there," "Get off the platform," etc. They are often, too, man-handled in a manner to which men and women would not submit in any other portion of the world. Platform guards at stations hurl themselves with all their weight and strength upon passengers and literally drive them into the already overcrowded vehicles, the while using exclamations and even epithets of the most unpleasant and annoying character.

But how different in Mexico. Here, although the inflexible and admirable rule is that all passengers must leave the car by the front door and only enter by the rear, and that no one may stand on the front platform, the conductors are exceedingly polite and gentlemanly in handling the crowds, even when they attempt to violate the rules noted. They do not lift their voices in harsh orders, but when it is necessary, in the most polite and deferential manner, call the attention of passengers to the necessity for obeying the rules in order to accommodate other passengers. Many times the passengers do not appear to appreciate the necessity for co-operation with the officials, and not infrequently the rear portion of a car is seen to be crowded to the limit, while there is abundance of space in the forward end.

A novel plan pursued in the operation of street cars in Mexico city is the attachment of a mirror to one of the standards on the front platform so that it reflects a full view of the rear platform on the side devoted exclusively for the entrance of passengers. The motorman, by watching the mirror, is enabled to see the moment all the passengers have boarded the car, and to start immediately without waiting for a signal from the conductor, who is frequently engaged in collecting fares inside the car and in a position where delay is involved should he be required to investigate before giving the signal to go ahead. The amount of time saved by this device is very considerable.

"Information"

A SPEECH was recently delivered in Congress in which the orator dealt with the Mexican question. His accurate knowledge of Mexican affairs was displayed by this sentence:

"These revolts were led by such men as Cuidad Juarez (*sic*—spelling and all), Emilio Gomez," etc.

The accuracy of the speaker was still further demonstrated by this assertion:

"Shortly before the overthrow and death of Madero, Venustiano Carranza, then Governor of the State of Coahuila, started a revolution against Madero."

No one with even slight knowledge of the actual course of events within the period referred to could make such an absolutely unfounded assertion as this. Not one fact can be or ever has been cited in support of such a calumny.

The ability of the author of the foregoing quotations to deal with the Mexican situation requires no further demonstration.

Loss of Life During the Revolution

Absurd Exaggerations Which are Shown to Be Impossible—Number of Violent Deaths Not Excessive Under the Circumstances

THERE has been a great deal of loose talk, especially in the foreign press and by correspondents who sought sensationalism more than truth, regarding the loss of life during the revolutionary period of the past five years. The greater portion of that loss was of course, as is well known, confined to the period after the treason of Huerta, the fighting before that time having been of a desultory character and there having been almost nothing worthy of the name of battle.

As is well known, not only in Mexico but all over the world, wherever battles are fought the first estimates of the loss are invariably exaggerated. It is not until the actual returns are made, regiment by regiment, that the truth is ever known. In the case of Mexico, owing to the very nature of the troubles, civil war carried on by hastily raised forces and with no opportunity for systematic records, it will never be possible to determine the exact loss. It is only by comparison that any sort of idea can be formed in this connection.

It will not be denied that the civil war between the Northern and Southern States was one of the bloodiest in history. There were engaged on the part of the North a total of 2,772,408 men, and of these 349,944 died from one cause and another. More than half the deaths however were due to disease, or a total of 199,720. There were just 67,053 killed in battle, while 43,012 died subsequently from wounds, and 40,154 from other causes, making the grand total given.

The percentage of deaths to the total enrolment was therefore about 11.25.

Applying the same ratio to the revolution in Mexico, and it will be seen at once that the statements so widely published regarding excessive losses can have little foundation. Reputable writers have made the wild assertion that hundreds of thousands of lives had been lost, without stopping to consider the basis for such allegations. It is doubtful whether there were all told during the entire five years since Madero led his successful revolution against Diaz, over two hundred thousand men in arms on both sides. Indeed, this number is a maximum estimate. Allowing the losses to have been as heavy as in the civil war of the United States, this would give a total possible (but not at all probable) loss of not to exceed 25,000 lives. But those who saw any of the battles of the revolution know very well that there were no such number killed outright as in the civil war, or in any such proportion to the number engaged. The different methods of warfare of today as compared with those of fifty years ago account for this. There is a little hand-to-hand fighting now, very little charging in mass, very little movement in the open in solid formation, inviting destruction by wholesale. The fighting is now mainly conducted from behind defenses of one kind and another and hence the direct loss of life is much smaller.

But even granting that the loss in Mexico during the revolution has been as high proportionately as during the civil war, and granting that a possible total of two hundred thousand men have been engaged, the death loss would be well within 25,000 from all causes.

It is to be hoped that future writers in dealing with this question will at least confine themselves to the domain of probability, and by a few such comparisons as that here made arrive somewhere within speaking distance of the truth.

"SOCIEDADES ANONIMAS"

Recent Ruling with Respect to the Organization of Companies for the Exploitation of the Petroleum Measures of the Republic

DURING the past year there has been something like an epidemic in organizing companies for exploiting the petroleum deposits of Mexico. Hundreds of companies have been floated, with capital running into the tens of millions, and the stock thus issued has been purchased with eagerness by thousands. Some of these concerns are legitimate, but a very large share are of the "wildcat" order. Some actually own or have under lease the land upon which they are at work or propose to explore, but others have not even the shadow of a title to any real property, having at the most an option for a lease, yet capitalized for millions.

Associations for this and other purposes are frequently organized as "Sociedades Anonimas," corresponding to the "Limited Liability" companies of Great Britain. In this manner, the incorporators escape from liability except to the extent of the amount of stock held by them. The names of companies organized under this law are not required to be indicative of their purpose or business. Thus there is an extensive concern organized under the title "El Nuevo Mundo," which is devoted to selling general merchandise, and so on.

So many putative oil development companies had been organized with little or no real foundation of actual value that the Government some time since found it necessary to close the numerous offices that had been opened in the City of Mexico for the sale of shares.

Recently a more drastic step was taken by the issuance of a decree, given last mouth, providing that in future all foreigners organizing companies for the purpose of exploiting the petroleum as well as other mineral deposits of the country, or seeking to do so individually, must first make written relinquishment of any right to appeal to their own country in any matters concerning the company or the personal business specified. As a large share of the wildcat concerns had foreign organizers, this decree will doubtless prove effectual in curtailing further operations in this direction.

Religious Freedom in Mexico

REGARDING the question of religious freedom in Mexico, the provision of the Constitution concerning Church and State is worthy of attention. It is as follows:

"Article I.—The State and Church are independent of each other. The Congress shall not enact laws establishing or prohibiting any religion."

The Constitutionalists are pledged to absolute religious freedom, as witness this official declaration:

"The Constitutionalist Government gives full guarantees in religious matters to the exercise of any cult, but strictly enforces the observance of the Laws of Reform and of the Mexican Constitution."

For the first time in the history of Mexico, every inhabitant of that country is at liberty "To worship God after the dictates of his own conscience," but not to endeavor to force any one else to conform with his personal view of the matter. There is no inhibition or prohibition or obstacle of any kind in the way of exercising the right of worship.

New Sources of Paper Pulp

ONE of the interesting results of the revolution is the efforts that are being made to discourage and even to prohibit the use of pulque, the favorite dissipation of the lower classes. It is recognized that large capital has been invested in the cultivation of the maguey plant, and one of the efforts of the Government has been to direct the owners to some profitable use therefor besides the production of pulque. The fiber of the plant is declared to be fully equal to that of the hennequen, while as a base for the manufacture of paper pulp the bulky stem or "heart" of the maguey is said to be valuable. The price of paper in the United States has gone up over one hundred per cent since the outbreak of the war in Europe, owing it is said to the suspension of the exportation of pulp from Canada and its diversion to England, where it enters into the manufacture of powder. It was demonstrated many years ago in California that the nopal cactus made excellent paper pulp, and now with the knowledge that maguey may be profitably used in the same direction a valuable industry may and doubtless will be built up in this direction.

JUAN B. ROJO, SECRETARY MEXICAN-AMERICAN COMMISSION

Education in the Home Should Complete that of the School

IN Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, they have what is called "The Mothers' Club," which was organized by Señorita Micaela Perez, for the purpose of an advantageous intellectual exchange between the teachers of the kindergartens and the mothers. The club holds its meetings in the Normal School building, where matters of education and the training of children are discussed, and the methods for making home training supplement that of the school. It is believed that in this interchange great benefits will result to the children not only of the present but of future generations.

THE total production of refined asphalt in the Republic during the year 1915 was 388,318 tons, valued at $3,730,436.

Cultivating Lands Free of Cost to the Poor

PENDING the establishment of new pueblos and the return of old communal lands to their rightful owners, the poor all over the Republic are being permitted to go upon unutilized lands wherever found and cultivate them without cost. Owners are required to return a statement to the authorities showing how much of their holdings they are utilizing for productive purposes, they are allowed to rent to others any desired portion for the same purpose, but any land that is left unused and idle, can be, under supervision of the authorities, entered upon and cultivated by any one so desiring without cost in the way of rent or other charge. The intent is merely to afford all wherever possible an opportunity to produce a food crop in order to relieve present necessities and to give a livelihood to the many idle whose usual avenues of employment have been temporarily suspended. As a result of this measure, all over the country may be seen farming operations conducted and good crops of corn, beans, etc., produced on lands that had hitherto been permitted to lie idle and which the poor could not utilize owing to the exorbitant rentals demanded by the owners. Notable is the utilization of the railroad right of way in many sections wherever practicable, railway employees and others taking advantage of the opportunity to secure a valuable addition to their earnings.

In discussing the settlement of the land question the fact should be constantly borne in mind and cannot be too well emphasized, that anything in the nature of confiscation is not contemplated and will not be prosecuted. Every land owner will be adequately compensated wherever it is found necessary to exercise the right of eminent domain and expropriate lands for the benefit of the public.

Promoting Industries in Guanajuato

NEWS has been received from the state of Guanajuato that under the initiative of the municipal authorities of the capital city of that State a Board for Assisting Industry has been established, with the object of inaugurating various enterprises which shall furnish profitable employment to the people.

The first step is the securing of instructions from the Secretary of War for the manufacture in various cities of that State of all footwear needed for the army and navy. It is estimated that there are sixty thousand persons who either have been or can be utilized in this industry, the city of Leon being the center of such production. Many have been idle for extended periods and it is hoped to give them all employment at an early date.

Because of the increasing cost of food articles of prime necessity the municipal authorities have opened a warehouse in the principal public building, where such products will be furnished to all public employes at reasonable rates. The salaries of these employes have also been recently increased in keeping with the cost of living.

A LARGE deposit of magnesite has been discovered on Cedros island, off the coast of Lower California. This material is of value in the manufacture of cement.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

In Mexico according to the constitution, a man if married can vote when he is 18 years of age, but if unmarried he cannot vote until he is 21.

"Mexico Must Pay Its Debts" says a newspaper. That is exactly what Mexico proposes to do, and incidentally it is abundantly able to do so.

Railroad repair shops have been established at Saltillo, the capital of the State of Coahuila, and add largely to the prosperity of that agreeable city.

The port works at Mazatlan are again being pushed, an appropriation having been granted to the Department of Public Works for that purpose.

All receipts of the national telegraph lines, which are payable in the old paper currency and amount to many millions, are turned over to the treasury and burned.

The Governor of Chihuahua is studying the best method for the regulation of the traffic in alcoholic beverages, in order to more properly protect the morals of the people.

The State Government of Guanajuato has under consideration a plan for the construction of a storage reservoir of three hundred thousand cubic meters capacity to provide water for irrigation.

Americans are returning to nearly all portions of Mexico and resuming their occupations, thus testifying to their belief in the permanence of peaceful conditions. This is especially true of the oil regions.

The volume and value of exports from Mexico into the United States for the year 1915-16 were the largest in the history of the Republic. Imports into Mexico for the same period also showed a large increase.

The Mexican National Mint in Mexico City is now running to its full capacity and a large quantity of silver and gold bullion in bars has been turned over to it for conversion into coins, which are in great demand.

Railroad traffic with Oaxaca and all portions of the State of Morelos has been resumed and trains are now running regularly. This is true also of practically all the lines in the Republic, with perhaps a few minor exceptions.

The Director-General of the Agricultural Department has issued a 316-page volume on the best and most modern methods of corn culture, and another of 164 pages on butter making. That department is fully alive to the necessity for education on all such lines.

By the way, Mexico had the parcel post system years before it was finally adopted in the United States. And the Mexican Postoffice department paid a handsome profit annually on its operation. The limit of weight is eleven pounds for any one package, and there are certain regulations also as to size. But it is one of the most popular features of the postal service in that country.

The historical old Belen prison in Mexico city, which for generations was noted for its medieval conditions, has been converted into a public bath and wash house. The present prison, that of Santiago, in the outskirts of the city, is an entirely modern and up-to-date structure, with all hygienic and other appliances necessary for the well being of the prisoners. The prison of the Castle of San Juan de Ulua, in Vera Cruz harbor, has been converted into a museum, and with the passing of Belen go two plague spots of the Republic, thanks to the reform carried out by the Constitutionalists.

El Paso dispatches state that 25,000 Yaqui Indians have gone on the warpath in Sonora and Sinaloa. In the palmiest days of that tribe, according to the most accurate information obtainable, there were never to exceed twenty-five thousand men, women and children all told. The experience of the past six years warrants the assertion regarding news dispatches that if they bear the El Paso date it is safe to place no credit in their veracity. Some day The Review may have something to say about the "fake factory" maintained in that city.

Policy of Returning Property Temporarily Held

To the end of establishing an exact criterion relative to which of the few properties under intervention (temporarily taken over by Constitutionalist Government)—suburban or city lands, furniture, etc.—shall be retained by the Government (definitely nationalized), and which may be returned to their owners or their legitimate heirs or representatives, the First Chief, according to trustworthy reports, has under study an important decree.

In the cases of those who were active or who were accomplices in the tragedy of February, 1913, as well as those who used their public office to enrich themselves in the most base and criminal manner, it is believed that their property will not be returned, but will be definitely taken over by the Government. On the other hand, the properties of those who were not serious political offenders, will be returned to them or to their representatives.

As a result of such investigations, returns are commencing to be made to proprietors, or those empowered by them, who had no direct participation in the spurious regimes that the Revolution has combated.

Therefore, the First Chief has decided that the property of Señora Sofía Romero Rubio de Elízaga, sister of doña Carmen, of the same name, (widow of Don Porfirio Diaz) be returned to her.

The commission established for the purpose will continue the study of these cases, and in default of the properties or lands being returned to the owner, they will revert to the nation and come under the administration of the office of the Secretary of the Treasury.

Prospecting for Oil in New Districts Temporarily Suspended

A short time since many newspapers published a statement to the effect that the Government had suspended all exploration for petroleum, pending, it was so alleged, the nationalization of the oil measures of the Republic.

The text of the decree shows that this statement is erroneous, the inhibition being only against prospecting in regions where petroleum is not already known to exist. Following is the exact language:

"With the object of avoiding the creation of new interests which might subsequently offer difficulties in the adoption of future laws relative to the exploration and exportation of oil deposits, it has been resolved temporariiy and while the new laws on petroleum are being put in force, not to grant in the future, not even of a provisional character, any class of permits for engaging in work connected with the oil industry, in zones of the territory of the Republic other than those recognized as petroleum lands in which the work of exploitation is at present being carried on. These zones comprise: the district of the center and south of the State of Tamaulipas; the Districts Tancanhuitz and Valleys of the State of San Luis Potosí; the Cantons of Ozuluama, Tantoyuca, Túxpan, Papantla, Minatitlan and Acayucan of the State of Veracruz; the District of Macuspana of the State of Tabasco, and the Department of Pichucalco of the State of Chiapas."

Companies or persons not heeding this prohibition are warned that they will be punished for so doing, and any companies that may be organized for such work will not be recognized as legal personalities.

A Novel Kind of Advertising

One of the daily newspapers of Vera Cruz maintains a department which is assuredly unique of its kind. It is to be doubted if anything of the sort was ever published anywhere in the world. The department is headed: "Bad Business Men and Uncivil Employes." Following are extracts therefrom:

"The following directory will give the names of those who commit abuses and which come to our knowledge.

"La Concordia, Avenida de la Independencia—Sells boxes containing fifteen matches for ten cents and when a customer accidentally breaks a glass he is obliged to pay $2 when the cost is only 75 cents.

"Restaurant Galicia, Francisco Canal street—Charges 40 cents for a water ice or a glass of lemonade or other soft drink.

"Drugstore de Santo Domingo, Avenida Independencia—Charges excessive prices, much higher than other houses.

"The Driver of Coach No. 463 charges much more than the legal rate.

"La Pila Bakery has arbitrary prices and treats its customers badly.

"La Parroquia Cafe—The glasses are dirty and the employes treat the public badly.

"La Camelia Cafe—Treats customers badly and gives then short change.

"Restaurant del Club de Regatas—Charges very high prices—as much as if the food were the 'Pearls of the Virgin.'

"The Cafe Cosmopolite charges 75 cents for refreshments that only cost 25 cents in all other places.

"Oriente Barber Shop, Calle de Zaragosa—Charges $1 for a hair cut and another dollar for a shave.

"La Lucinda, corner Francisco Madero street and Rayon—Sells articles that are obnoxious to the health."

Whether the people who are thus advertised appreciate this kind of publicity is not known, but up to date the editor of the paper giving such "free notices" is still living! It might be different in some portions of the United States.

A. E. L. Leckie, head of the Washington International Law firm of Leckie, Cox & Sherier, was recently elected General Counsel of the National Defense League of the United States. Mr. Leckie is well known throughout Mexico, and has intimate relations with many of the prominent officials of that Republic.

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LATE NEWS NOTES

From the Pan-American Union

According to press reports American capitalists propose to invest $10,000,000 in hennequen cultivation in Yucatan.

The State of Guanajuato has six normal schools located in the following districts: Irapuato, Penjamo, Acambaro, Celaya, Leon, and Guanajuato.

Machinery for the manufacture of boots and shoes on a small scale, and an engine to run the same, all of which was purchased in the United States, was recently installed by Victoriano Romero in Mazatlan.

The exports of petroleum from Tampico in March last aggregated 1,383,987 barrels, all of which, with the exception of 98,150 barrels shipped to Rio de Janeiro, went to the United States.

A new domestic postal tariff has been put into effect by the Constitutionalist Government. Under this tariff letters are carried to any part of Mexico at the rate of 20 centavos per gram or fraction thereof.

Reports from Guanajuato, one of the richest mineral districts of Mexico, state that the owners of La Luz mine of that city have discovered a vein of auriferous ore assaying a gold value of nearly $1,000 per ton.

According to a Sinaloa paper the Elisa Mining Company proposes to establish a large smelter at San Blas station under the management of Alfredo Horne. The mines of the company are situated in the Mocorito district.

On July 3 last the national school of telegrahy in the city of Mexico opened its courses to pupils of both sexes qualified for entrance and possessing a certificate showing that they had completed the primary course required. The course is for two years and graduates will be given work in the offices of the Government telegraph lines.

The Governor of the State of Coahuila has issued a decree requiring the payment of a monthly tax of from 600 to 1,600 pesos, according to the size of the establishment, by manufacturers of alcoholic beverages, and from 200 to 1,200 pesos monthly by manufacturers of wines. Establishments which sell alcoholic beverages, wines, pulque and beer, are also subject to monthly taxes varying from 200 to 1,200 pesos.

The Governor of Chihuahua has organized in the State capital a cooperative society for furnishing supplies to the public under the protection of the Commonwealth government. The capital of the society is 200,000 pesos, which may be increased to meet the demands of the business. The headquarters of the organization is in the city of Chihuahua, but branches are to be established in the principal towns and mining camps of the State. Shares will be sold to individuals but the State government will own the majority of the stock of the company, thereby giving it a controlling interest at all times in the business of the concern.

Sale of "Tepache" Prohibited

As shown by a report from Mérida, Yucatan, the Constitutionalist Government has not been sleeping on its laurels, but is always alert to make good its promises for the betterment of the people.

It seems that the law prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages in Yuçatan, which was the first dry State of the Mexican Republic, was carefully studied by some of the liquor dealers, and an effort made to discover some intoxicating drink that would not come within the pernicious alcoholics named in the list.

This drink was found in "tepache," which was sold on the streets, the plazas, and in the stores of the city, and in spite of the activities of the police, under strict orders emanating from the Superior Government, it did not seem possible to stop the vice of drunkenness, cases occurring frequently where "tepache" was found to be the cause. "Tepache" not only causes drunkenness, the same as other fermented liquors, but its use results in insanity as well. Its sale has now been forbidden, wherever found, and the order is being strictly enforced.

Minister of Public Instruction Palavicinni was the principal speaker at the Independence day celebration in Mexico City, and took occasion to oppose militarism, but also advocated universal military training, claiming that if every citizen were a trained soldier it would be impossible for the army to trample down the principles of liberty.

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COLORADO BLDG. WASHINGTON, D. C.

To Country Editors and Farmers:

If you want to learn all about the biggest and most successful farmer's co-operative system in the world, you should study the organization of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen of Yucatan.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for the advance in prices and what interests are back of the very costly campaign that is being waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing system, you should read the SISAL BULLETIN, published every two weeks.

Millions of dollars are being spent by certain wealthy individuals and powerful corporations to regain control over the world's supply of the fibre that is used exclusively, almost, in the manufacture of binder twine for the American farmers. The Sisal Bulletin will keep you posted on this gigantic fight. A postcard or letter will get your name on the permanent mailing list and you will be glad that you found it. It is free.

THE SISAL BULLETIN
Room 2835 Equitable Bldg., 120 Broadway,
New York City

The Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

VOL. 1 WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER, 1916. NO. 3

Price Ten Cents

Carranza a Candidate for President

The Leading Generals Unite in Pledging Their Support to Him—Reasons Why He Should Have the Position

THE conditions to which the country has come, after six years of war, justified in fact by great popular necessities, though not less painful and exhausting, and the convenience of directing without delay, in a clear and efficient manner, all the potentialities of the nation in behalf of organic peace, of political reorganization and economic development of Mexico, have moved the undersigned to consider the quickest and most efficacious means to attain the above patriotic ends.

We consider it principally necessary to restore constitutional order in the whole Republic as soon as possible, because in so doing we will have the basis for the gigantic work of reconstruction which we should labor for without regard to the unexpected requirements and momentary problems confronting a provisional regime. We should consolidate our political situation for a definite term of time, in which we will be free from all excitement and will appear at last before foreign nations, not as a victorious political party, but as a national government supported by the vote of the people, thoroughly respected as the representative of the whole country and operating strictly within constitutional precepts with democratic ease.

General Alvaro Obregon

On the other hand, the re-establishment of such a regime will satisfy the increasing and justifiable desires of the nation for public peace and will represent the legal sanction of the political and social reforms of the Revolution. The means to reach a constitutional regime is the formation of the three powers which according to our laws constitute the Federal Government and of the same powers representing the respective governments of each State.

All of these powers are constituted by popular elections, and as these are about to be convened, it is essential, due to the proximity of this electoral movement, to call the attention of the people to the citizens it has to choose for high offices and especially to the first and most important of them all—the constitutional presidency of the Republic.

The undersigned group of revolutionaries has deeply and seriously studied the problems involving the nomination of a candidate for so high a position; has weighed the antecedents and significance of the most prominent persons at the present moment, and has reached the conviction that the most fitting and commendable for the nomination in this case is Venustiano Carranza, who aside from his personal merits has most especial qualities to guarantee the maintenance of peace, the homogeneity of his government, the cohesion of all those exercising civil and military authority, and the observance of liberal principles which have been the supreme aspiration of our country since the glorious revolution of Ayutla.

General Benjamin Hill

General Eduardo Hay

We are not blinded by a sectarian spirit; we are not moved by personal tendencies that we are incapable of sheltering and which we would indignantly repel, because we are sincere in our conviction and inspired only by our conscience. In voicing the candidacy of Mr. Carranza we fail to find in favor of any other man the arguments we have in his support, arguments which are not the result of transitory personal consideration or of present victories, but arguments involving the future of the country, its future peace, and its security to organize, fortify itself and attain its prosperity.

It is for this reason that we invite our fellow citizens to second our nomination and to work with activity to the end that our wishes may be soon a reality. Now is the time for all revolutionaries to show once more the indestructible solidarity that binds us, as shown when the Niagara conferrees separately addressed Constitutionalist leaders, putting to play diverse suggestions and finding as a unanimous reply that we were all rallying around the First Chief to defend the interests of the country.

General Pablo Gonzales

The unbridled personal ambitions of the leaders of past revolutions have given rise to the general belief that we are unredeemable in this way and unable to control our passions and establish harmony around our own government. We should now demonstrate, perhaps for the first time and for future example, that the time has come for a modification of the above despicable judgment; that there are now revolutionaries who do not aspire to power and who will not rise in arms on account of spite.

Let us demonstrate our union and our knowledge of the present situation of Mexico and let us elevate to the legal chief executive office of the nation the citizen whom we willingly recognized in his legal investiture as the constitutional

Governor of the State of Coahuila, as the Chief of the Revolution; as the man who knew how to lead us and carry us to victory; as the one who initiated a great work of national dignity and the reforms which he is to conclude himself; as the one who accepted the historical and political responsbiliity of the revolution in the period of struggle and the one who is to answer to the Mexican people for the social and political work of the revolution in the period of reconstruction.

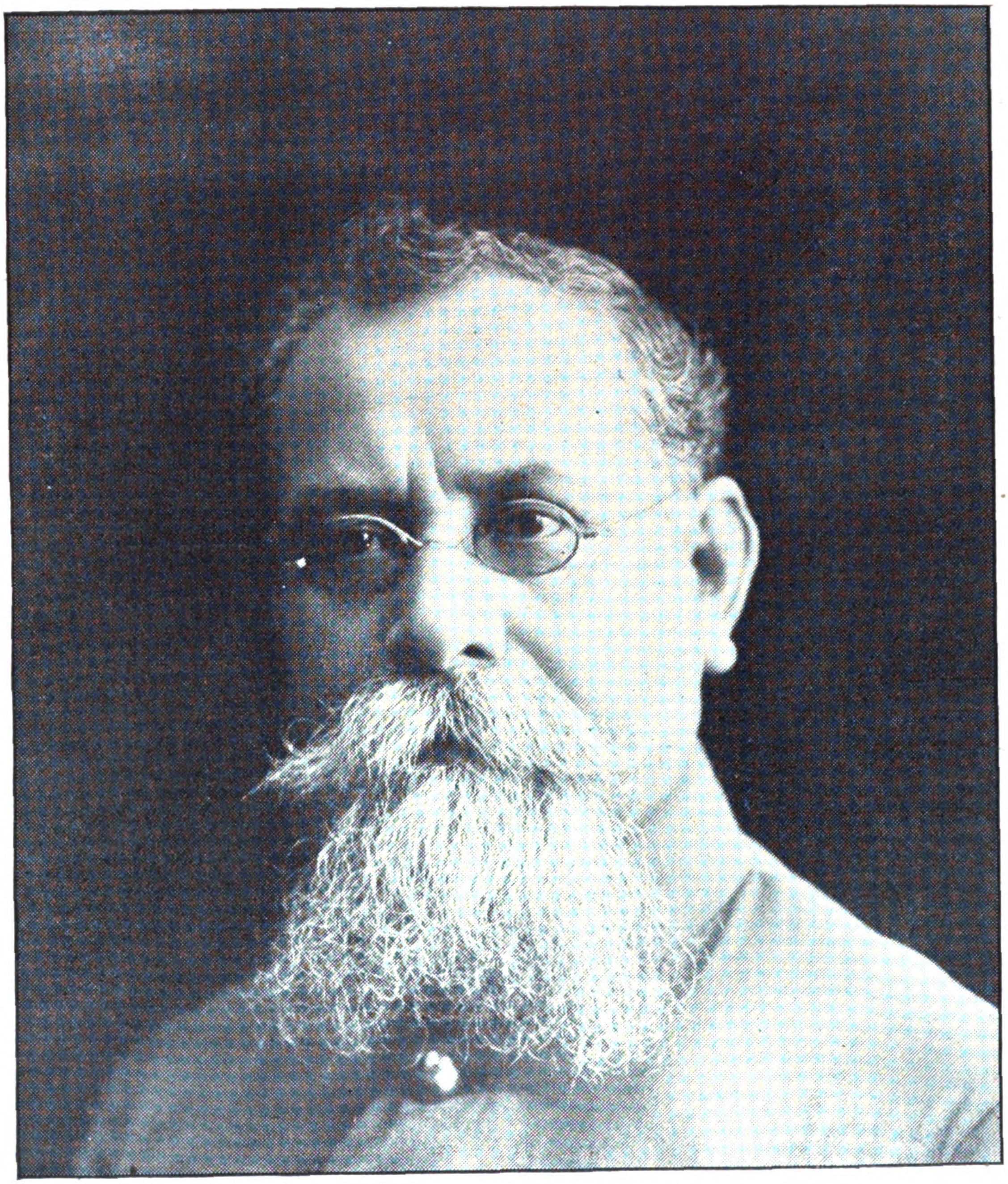
Venustiano Carranza is, therefore, a bond of union between the elements of the party; he guarantees more than anyone else public peace, which is indispensable for the work of reconstruction and prosperity of the country and who has the loyal and effective collaboration of all the revolutionaries to realize these great objects. It is for this reason that we consider him the most fitting and the one better indicated for the post of Constitutional President of the Republic, and we commend him for this high post, inviting the people to second our labors, fully conscious that our work will be patriotic and useful, a work for the future and hope for the Mexican nation, so much in need of it, to live in a regime of order without oppression against its legality, without any false freedom, without disturbance—in one word, in a regime of institutions adequate to the necessities of just and true democracy.

Mexico, October 25, 1916.

Signed,

General Alvaro Obregon
General Pablo Gonzales
General Benjamin Hill
General Eduardo Hay

Following the publication of the foregoing over the signatures of four of the leading Generals of the Constitutionalist army, a ratification of the pledge of support was issued over the names of practically all the military and civil leaders of the movement who are either in or near the capital city.



VENUSTIANO CARRANZA

An Inherent Right

There exists in every community the forces and the ability to solve that community's problems. They may be and frequently are latent and undeveloped, but they are none the less there. These forces must be sought out, stimulated, trained and developed and then applied to the problems of the community.—*E. M. Burritt, Cornell University.*

Whether the author of the foregoing truth intended the broadest possible meaning of the word "community" is not clear, but if he did not, if he merely intended to use the word in a restricted sense, then The Review suggests that it is just as applicable to a nation and a country as it is to a portion of one. And the author might have gone further and insisted upon the *inherent right* of every community, or nation, or country to solve its own problems without unjustifiable outside interference.

The Monroe Doctrine

There has been a great deal of loose talk in the press and in public about the so-called "Monroe Doctrine," and it is perfectly plain that only a very hazy idea prevails as to what that doctrine really is. One newspaper recently went so far as to see in the presence of a German submarine on the American coast a distinct violation of the doctrine and to call for action by the United States in regard thereto. For the information of readers of The Review the Monroe doctrine is given in full. Here it is, as enunciated by President James Monroe nearly a century ago, the occasion being the attitude assumed by certain European governments in connection with the troubles of some of the South American Republics:

"We owe it to candor and to the amicable relations existing between the United States and the allied powers to declare that we should consider any attempt on their part to extend their system to any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety. With the existing colonies or dependencies of any European power we have not interfered and shall not interfere, but with the governments which have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence we have, on great consideration and just principles, acknowledged, we could not view an interposition for oppressing them or controlling in any other manner their destiny, by any European power, in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States. The American continents should no longer be subjects for any new European colonial settlement."

The roll of membership of the Board of Directors of the Felix Diaz party, during the decena tragica or "cuartelazo," has been discovered and is published in full in "El Pueblo," Mexico City. It includes the name of at least one person of foreign descent who has been insistent in claiming protection because of his alleged American citizenship.

Present Conditions in Mexico

Most Abundant Crops for Nearly Twenty-Five Years—Mines and Other Industries Resuming Operations

SEÑOR ELISEO ARREDONDO, Ambassador Designate of the Republic of Mexico to the United States, recently returned to Washington from a brief visit to the Mexican Capital. It was the first time in more than two years that Señor Arredondo had made any extensive tour in Mexico. To him it was a journey of investigation besides its purely governmental occasion, an opportunity to register first hand impressions of the true conditions existing within his homeland.

The diplomat's investigations were unrestricted. He studied Mexico as would any newcomer and he saw much.

By reason of the very recent exploitation by certain elements of the American daily and periodical press with regard to food, health and other conditions which were described in sensational and erroneous fashion as alarming, Señor Arredondo admits that unavoidably he had imbibed the idea that some of these descriptions might possess elements of truth, and for this reason also he gave especial attention to just these conditions. It is gratifying to report that none of the tales of the sensation-mongers were found to be based upon fact.

The truth is, Señor Arredondo assures THE MEXICAN REVIEW, that normal conditions practically prevail in northern and central regions, in the States visited by him, and that all over the Republic the autumnal harvests have been better and larger than in any previous season for two decades. Besides, in all the States, the Government has not only allowed the poor people to cultivate untilled lands without cost for their use, but has advanced the necessary seeds, implements and money for the production of a crop. As a result, the areas under cultivation have been vastly increased. Today, the supply of corn, beans, wheat and other grain is so much larger than heretofore that there are no apprehensions of food shortage. There is practically no suffering from hunger.

The State of Tamaulipas, ranking eighth in area but only twenty-first in population, owing to the arid character of much of its surface, alone this year produced over 1,650,000 bushels of corn, besides large quantities of other grains, while similarly encouraging reports come from other agricultural sections. Much new territory has been put under cultivation in all portions of Mexico, under the plan noted, and the entire arable belt extending from the American boundary to Mexico City is a scene of activity.

Many of Mexico's largest mining camps are being reopened. Many really never suspended at all. Notable among the latter are the rich and extensive mines at Pachuca, the capital of the State of Hidalgo, the largest bullion producing camp in the Republic, and whose principal mines have not been closed down at any time since the revolution began in 1910, with the possible exception of a period of less than a week, to be exact, because of delays in receiving chemical supplies necessary for the treatment of the ores. In San Luis Potosi, in Guanajuato, and at Villaldama, Matehuala, Concepción and other important camps, the mines are in operation and are giving employment to full complements of laborers, while many of the Coahuila coal mines are also in active production.

At Monterrey, one of the largest industrial centers in Northern Mexico, there is great activity. The steel works, smelter, brewery (the largest in the Republic), railroad shops and other industries, employing thousands of hands, are in operation, while many minor industries are being restored and many new ones established. The extensive cotton factories in Mexico City, and in the States of Querétaro, Puebla, Vera Cruz, etc., are in full operation, as they have been almost continuously. The great tobacco, shoe, clothing and other manufacturing establishments in the Capital are also in full operation. In fact, normal conditions as regards industrial enterprises are being rapidly restored throughout the Republic.

Regarding the elections that have recently been held and others that are to come, Señor Arredondo gave the following explanation: The municipalities elected civil officers on September 15th, and these are now in office, supplanting the military authority. On October 22nd delegates to the Constituent Congress were selected in all States, there having been several parties to the field and a heavy vote having been polled, the Indians taking part in large numbers for the first time. This Congress will meet at Querétaro on November 20th, and will be charged with the sole duty of revising the Constitution and of adoptting, amending or rejecting any of the decrees of the First Chief that have been issued during the revolution. After the adoption of the revised Constitution, the municipalities will elect State Governors, and these officials will in turn call for an election of Congressmen from each State. This Congress will call a Presidential election under the provisions of the new Constitution. If the First Chief's recent decree abolishing the position of Vice-President and reducing the Presidential term to four years, shall have been sanctioned by the Constituent Congress, that will supplant the former Constitutional provision of a six-year term, with a Vice-President. Under either, the President can not be chosen for a second consecutive term. The Presidential election will probably take place in the latter part of January or the early portion of February, and the successful candidate will be installed in office with as little delay as possible after Congress shall have announced the result.

The Presidential campaign, it is expected, will be conducted upon lines somewhat similar to the quadrennial American ballot-battle. There may be two or more political parties in the field. On October 30th, the candidacy of Mr. Carranza for the highest office in the gift of the Mexican people was announced by his supporters, Generals Alvaro Obregon, Pablo Gonzales, Benjamin Hill and Eduardo Hay. The field, however, is open to all aspirants, and the election will be free and untrammeled—the true expression of the wishes of the whole people of Mexico. Every Mexican citizen of legal age will be invited and permitted to express his choice.

Naturally, it is hardly to be expected that any pronounced opposition to the elevation of the First Chief to the Presidency will arise. The selection of Mr. Carranza is likely to be unanimous. It is well right here and now to admit this likelihood, and, in passing, it may also be brought to the attention of the potential critics of all matters Carranzista, that the election in the United States of America in 1788, and consummated by the electors in 1789, had a similar unanimity of choice.

The many published reports regarding efforts alleged to have been made by the Constitutionalist Government to secure a foreign loan were declared by Señor Arredondo to be entirely without foundation. No such attempt has been made, nor will it be made until the proper time shall have arrived. Nevertheless, the Government has every reason to believe that whenever the opportune moment comes, a loan sufficient for all requirements will be negotiated upon distinctly favorable terms for the nation.

Señor Arredondo declares that the Constitutionalist Government is pursuing its course steadily, is carrying out the purposes of the revolution, and each day sees it more firmly intrenched in power and in receipt of the hearty support of the people, who recognize the difficulties that the Chief and his associates have had to contend with, not only at home, but abroad, and are disposed to acquiesce in all the steps that have been taken for the redemption of the pledges of the revolution. They are convinced of the sincerity and patriotism of those who are in control, and are willingly bearing those hardships which are unavoidably incident to a reconstructive period, especially where such radical changes in long existing conditions are involved. They realize that the land question is not one to be satisfactorily settled in in a day, nor can many of the other reforms be put into effect except after careful study and planning; but what has already been done has convinced the people of the intention of the authorities to bring about the promised changes as rapidly as possible, and there is no apparent disposition or desire to hamper those intrusted with these transcendentally important duties in carrying them to successful completion.

Paying A Nation's Debts

FOLLOWING the example of France in inducing the common people to contribute their savings toward the payment of the tremendous indemnity demanded by Germany after the war of 1870, the authorities of the latter country have with great success appealed to the citizens, the great mass of the people of all classes, to take up a loan recently authorized. The people responded with enthusiasm. As a single item, the school children gave sixteen million dollars, and so on through all ranks. If any one has yet suggested a loan of this sort to be floated in Mexico and without appealing to outsiders, THE REVIEW has failed to note it, though the plan may have been mooted. But if it is considered necessary to borrow money, why would not the idea be a good one? Mexico is not bankrupt. Far from it. Her people have vast sums of money—real metallic money—hidden away. There can be no doubt of this. It was so in France. It was so in Germany. It is always so in a country devastated by war. Why, then, not appeal to the people to entrust their savings to the Government, to the end that the rehabilitation of the nation's finances may be effected more rapidly than by the slower process, but a certain one nevertheless, of depending upon the taxation of the lands, mines, petroleum deposits and other sources of wealth? The idea would be worth trying, at all events.

THE Chinese in Merida, Yucatan, have organized a labor union with over 400 members. Besides the usual objects of such an organization, there will be a night school for the purpose of imparting instruction in the Spanish language and other important and useful branches.

Don Jesus Acuna, Secretary of Gobernacion

AMONG the group of educated, able and patriotic young men with whom the First Chief surrounded himself at the commencement of his then apparently almost hopeless contest against the usurper Huerta and his fellow traitors and assassins, none stood higher than Don Jesus Acuña, at present and for a long time past Secretary of Gobernacion in the Chief's cabinet. Like his comrades, he was filled with patriotic devotion to his country and like them he took his life in his hand and risked it freely and without fear in the righteous cause of resistance to treason and assassination.

Señor Acuña is a native of the State of Coahuila, and was there educated in the College of San Juan Nepomuceno, at Saltillo, supplementing the knowledge there gained with a course at the Atheneum "Juan Antonio de la Fuente." After the termination of his preparatory studies at these institutions, he took up the study of law in the national capital, graduating toward the close of 1911 with high honors, and with the admiration and regard of both professors and fellow-students.

From Mexico City he returned to Saltillo to occupy the position of Judge of the Juzgado de Letras del Ramo Penal, filling the position with credit and satisfaction. At the end of six months he was unanimously chosen to the Civil branch of the same court. This position he also held for six months, and then resigned to accept promotion to the office of Magistrate of the Supreme Court of Justice.

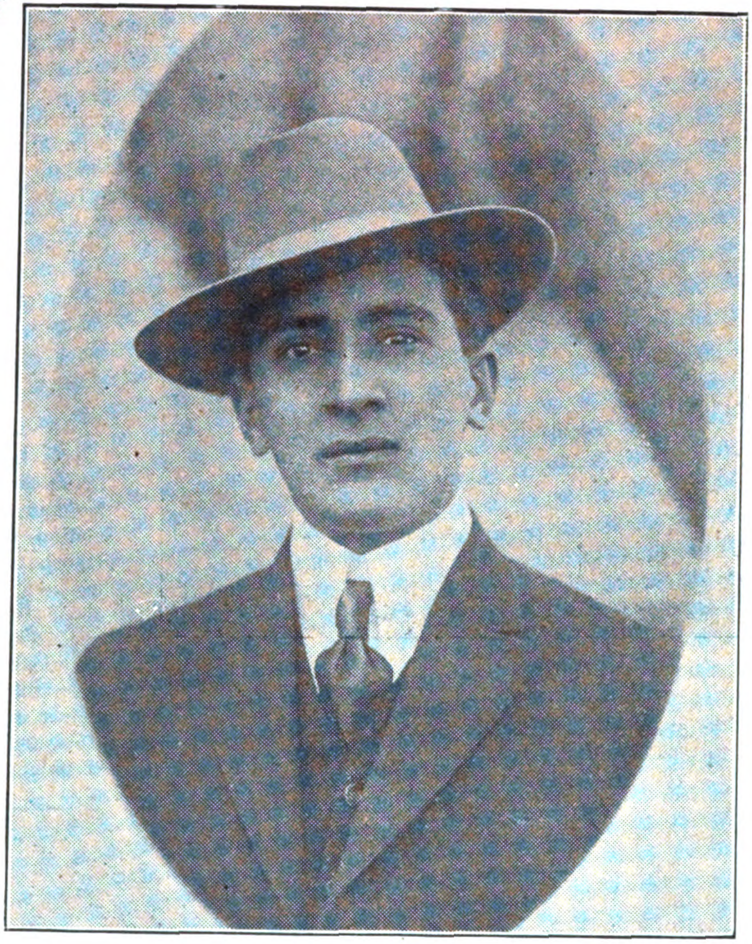
When the Congress of the State of Coahuila authorized Governor Venustiano Carranza to take the field and oppose the usurper Huerta with all the force at his command, Señor Acuña also allied himself with the Chief and served the cause in many ways, by special missions and otherwise. Later the First Chief conferred upon him the post of "Jefe Politico" of the "Distrito del Centro," for which a man was needed who, besides being intelligent, possessed the moral quality of loyalty during the critical circumstances through which the country was passing at that time.

He had charge of the Office of the Interior of the State of Coahuila, from which he was raised to the position of Governor of the State, during the campaign against Huerta, when Carranza assumed the Chieftainship of the Executive Power.

Señor Acuña was among the first to reiterate his adherence to the First Chief, representative of Constitutionalism, when Villa deserted him.

From his present high position as Secretary of the Interior of the Constitutionalist Government, he is winning the same laurels formerly won by him.

Señor Acuña is an ardent friend and admirer of the First Chief and is among the most trusted of the close advisers of the leader. He is of a very retiring disposition, is a hard and indefatigable worker in the interest of his country, and is in short an admirable type of that "Young Mexico" which the revolution has brought to the fore and which is doing so much for the regeneration and rehabilitation of the nation.



DON JESUS ACUNA

A Creditable Contrast

SINCE the practical triumph of the Constitutionalists labor unions have been organized in many portions of the country and there have been a number of strikes in various industries. Every one of those strikes was settled peaceably, the strikers received increases in wages varying for 50 to 150 per cent, sometimes more, and in no case was there any violence on either side. In no case were strike breakers molested and in no case were troops called out at the behest of the employers.

It is true, when public utility employes struck in the face of one of the gravest crises that have confronted the nation, drastic but entirely peaceable means were taken to put an end to the intolerable condition. But no lives were taken, no violence used—the strikers were merely told that they must return to work, or suffer severe punishment. They returned, and within a month their remuneration was increased fifty per cent.

In no case in the entire two years since workingmen were permitted to organize into unions and to inaugurate strikes *has a single life been lost or any violence been used against the strikers.* This is a cold fact. THE REVIEW has no desire to make any invidious comparisons, but it feels justified in calling attention to the different record in this direction that has been made in the same period by some other countries—the United States for example.

Prominent Foreign Capitalists Who Make No Complaint

AN interesting light is thrown upon actual conditions in Mexico by a recent meeting in England of shareholders of the Mexican Light and Power Company, one of the largest institutions of its character in the world, if indeed not *the* largest. It represents at the same time probably the largest single investment of foreign capital in Mexico.

At the meeting in question the Chairman, Sir Alexander Rogers, in reply to a question, made the interesting statement that the properties belonging to this group of companies had suffered no serious damage. There had necessarily been a great deal of wear and tear owing to inefficient management, which ought not to be there, but no actual destruction had taken place.

Not long since, when the manager of the Mexico City tramway system, a subsidiary of the parent company named, was asked as to the question of preferring a claim for damages suffered or alleged to have been incurred during the revolutionary period, he replied that there was no intention of presenting any such claim; that while it was true there had been losses and inconveniences, they were incident to any country during times of domestic trouble or war, and he did not propose to embarrass the authorities by making any claim.

This company supplies the city of Mexico and the Federal District with light and power; also El Oro mining camp in the State of Michoacan, and all the mines in the Pachuca region of the State of Hidalgo. The present works have a capacity of 100,000 horse power, but are planned so that 250,000 may be developed whenever required.

The company has an authorized capital of $25,000,000—$19,000,000 common and $6,000,000 preferred. It has $12,000,000 in five per cent first mortgage gold bonds, and $25,000,000 in five per cent second mortgage fifty year bonds, with $15,000,000 additional authorized, thus representing a total potential investment of $77,000,000. (*Vide,* "Mexican Year Book.")

In view of the constant reiteration in the foreign press of the assertion that Mexico is in ruins, her industries destroyed, foreign capital despoiled of its property, wholesale confiscation, etc., the foregoing facts are commended to those who wish to know the truth about Mexico, as well as to those who unwittingly or otherwise have lent themselves to slandering that country and its rulers.

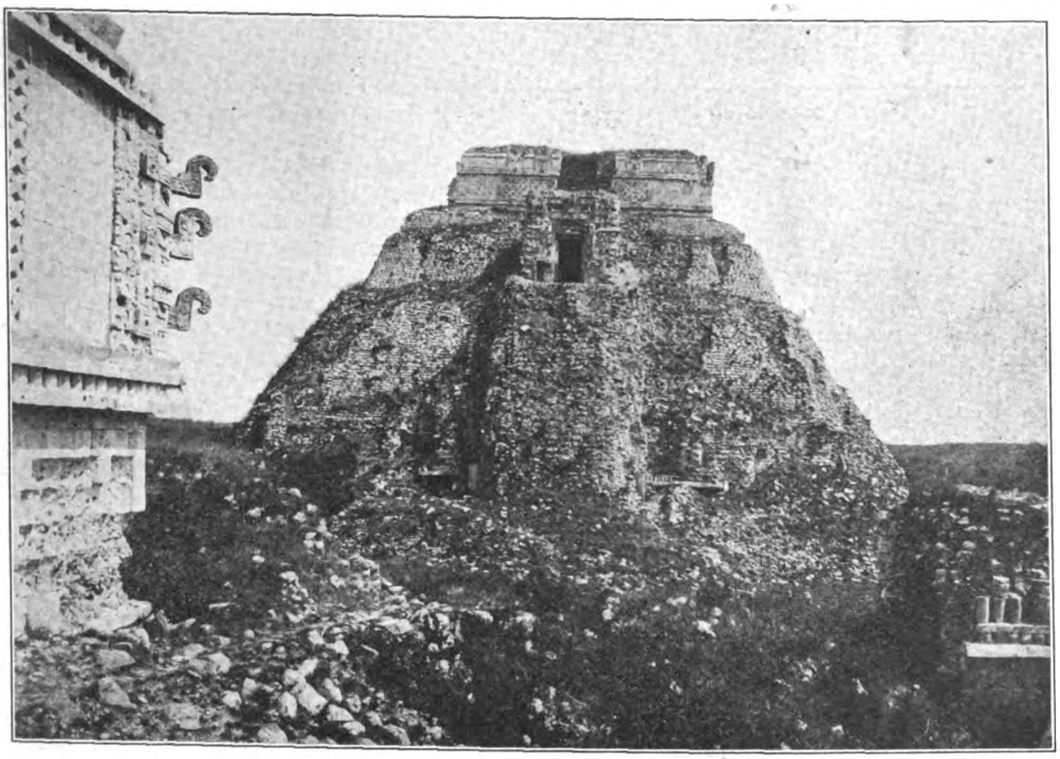
UNDER instructions of Governor Heriberto Jara of the State of Vera Cruz, large numbers of soldiers whose services are no longer required in the field owing to the pacification of that region, are now employed in cultivating the land, and a project is under consideration for the establishment of military agricultural colonies, which will be conducted by soldiers who will be ready to respond whenever their services may be required.

THE AMERICAN EGYPT

Marvelously Interesting, but Little Known, Ruined Cities of Yucatan, Where Can Be Traced the Workings of an Ancient Civilization That Fairly Rivals That of Today

BY GEORGE MINER

SCATTERED all over the Yucatan peninisula are monuments to a civilization that flourished thousands of years ago. Just how many thousand nobody knows and scientists differ very materially in their ideas on the subject. The prevailing belief, however, is that this civilization was in full swing as late as the beginning of the Christian era. Other scientists assert that the ruins antedate those of Egypt.



House of the Dwarf, Uxmal

Yucatan can well be called "The American Egypt." The ruins of 172 cities, big and little, have been discovered and not a quarter of the territory has been explored, that is, carefully explored, for the tropical verdure makes the finding of them very difficult. You might pass within a hundred feet of a wonderful old temple or pyramid a hundred times and not discover it, so effectively does the jungle screen these crumbling monuments of the distant past and shield them from the prying eyes of this inquisitive and presumptuous age.

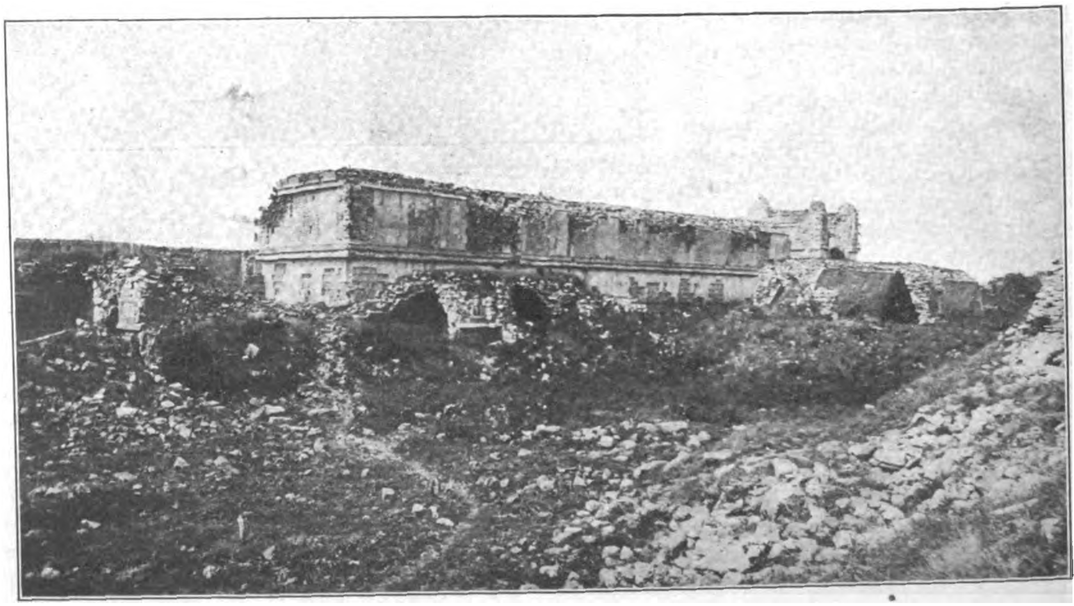
While the ruins of Egypt, through pictures and descriptions, are almost as familiar to the average American as New York's famous skyscrapers, those of Yucatan are practically unknown. They are rarely visited, even by antiquarians, while the casual tourist or tripper never gets there. That is easily understood. They are so difficult of access that none attempt the feat who are not very much in earnest about it.

Of the 172 clusters of ruins discovered, two sets represent what were once large and prosperous cities, of about half a million inhabitants each. Doubtless at different times each one of these two cities was the capital of the country.

One of the cities is Uxmal, pronounced "Ushmul," situated in the southwestern part of Yucatan, and the other is Chichen Itza, in the eastern part of the State. To reach either, the first step is a long railway journey from Merida, and when you reach the point of debarkation from the railway train the real trouble begins.

One is six miles away through the jungle and the other eighteen. In both cases the road leading out is little better than a trail and without question the roughest road that a wheeled vehicle was ever pounded to pieces on. No attempt has been made to level it. The trees were cut down, the underbrush cleared away and they called it a road.

The Government is now contemplating taking steps in the near future to remove this handicap to would-be visitors. In all probability rails will be laid for a tramway on which mule cars will be run to convey passengers. This will not be a very great expense and will unquestionably do a great deal toward bringing visitors that would otherwise never think of coming. Once make these ruins accessible, reduce the hardship and expense of visiting them to a minimum and let them be known about and there is no reason why thousands of Americans would not flock down there to look them over every winter.



Rear of Nunnery Quadrangle, Uxmal

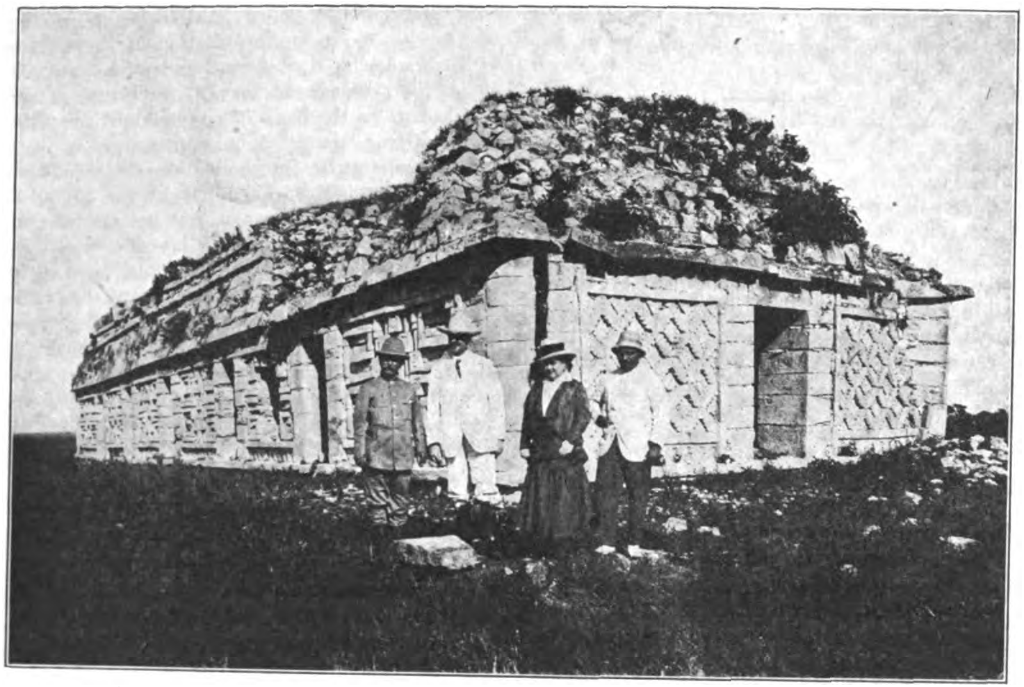
There is a hacienda close to both Uxmal and Chichen Itza where accommodation of all sorts can be had. That is, there are rooms in which you can sling your hammocks and kitchens in which the native caretakers can prepare your food. Also there are deep wells from which plenty of cool water can be had. Both of these haciendas are now suffering from neglect on account of the absence from the country of their owners, and so visitors have to shift pretty generally for themselves. It is not out of the bounds of possibility, I understand, that the Government will make some arrangement whereby these two farm-houses, or new ones to be built, will be run so that visitors will be able to get comfortable accommodations. As the Government does not approve of confiscation it has been almost impossible to do anything of the kind up to the present.

To my mind the most interesting ruin of all is "the House of the Dwarf" at Uxmal. It is a pyramid, 300 feet high, with a temple on top where the priests made human sacrifices. The steps on one side are fairly well preserved. A double chain is run down them so that it is possible to reach the top if you have a cool head. Once there you crawl through a hole knocked in the temple wall and come out on a platform which was the sacrificial altar.

This hole has a history. It was made some fifty years ago, when Carlotta, Empress of Mexico and consort of the ill-fated Maximilian, visited Uxmal. Through it crawled the proud Hapsburg princess to gaze over leagues of her new domain, once a populous city, now a dense forest. A year later her husband was executed, while she is to-day old and mad and practically a prisoner in an Austrian castle.

On that platform the priests stood and with knives of flint cut out the hearts of living victims and held the gruesome objects aloft, still throbbing, for the populace below to gaze at. In the great quadrangle at the foot of that side of the pyramid the inhabitants of the city gathered to watch these festal doings. Fifty thousand people could stand in it Around this huge court runs a palace, two stories high and beautifully carved, which was the home of the nuns, for whose special delectation these sacrifices were made. The nuns were the aristocrats of ancient Maya society.

On all four of the inner sides of this palace are carved two huge snakes, whose bodies are entwined as they twist around the structure. These snakes have human heads and tassels for tails. In all the ruins the carvings are of the same peculiar design. The patterns of the borders and the general ornamentation strongly suggest the Egyptian.

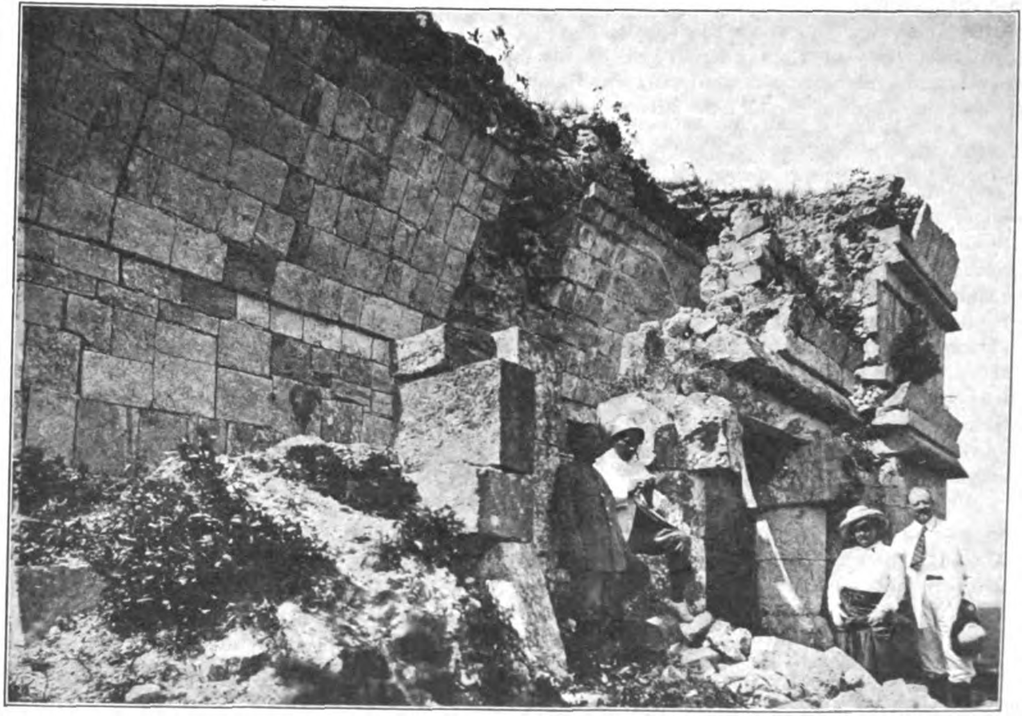


THE NUN'S HOUSE AT CHICHEN ITZA

What is most wonderful of all is how they were able to cut those huge blocks of stone and then carve them so beautifully without metal hammers or chisels. There is no iron or other metal in the country and so all they had to work with was flint. As to how they ever raised the blocks into place none can explain. That remains as much of a mystery as the pyramids in Egypt. This is used as an argument to prove that the same race of people did them both.

As there is no gold, silver or precious stones to be found in all Yucatan, it goes without saying that the ancient Mayas had no wealth of that description. Unlike the ancient Peruvians they had no vast stores of hidden gold. Still the treasure hunters can't believe it. These ruins look exactly as though in some sealed up chamber fortunes would be found. And so the treasure seekers have time and again invaded them and dug away and done a good deal of ruthless despoliation, to find nothing and have their labor for their pains. As soon as the Constitutionalists came into power a stop was put to that sort of vandalage. There are now Indian watchers guarding all the important ruins, and anyone caught prospecting in them is dealt with severely.

There are many more ruins standing at Chichen Itza than at Uxmal, but in both cities all the smaller structures and private houses have disappeared. The ages have worn them away or earthquakes shaken them down and the jungle has covered all. The natural accumulation of soil for centuries has also covered them many feet deep. The bases of the big buildings still in sight are, of course, way below the present surface. Not much has been done in the way of excavating, for the Government is only just turning its attention to these wonderful relics of the past. In the old Diaz days they were almost ignored. No attempt to preserve them at all was made. In fact, farmers carted away tons of beautifully carved stones to build walls and there was none to say them nay. It was a good deal easier to pull down a temple and take blocks already cut than to quarry new ones.



FRONT OF GREAT TEMPLE AT CHICHEN ITZA

At Chichen Itza there is a sort of temple like a huge round tower that is very curious. In it are four sets of circular stone stairways, one within another. The object is incomprehensible and the method of erection a puzzle to builders of to-day.

For that matter these ruins have several feats in mason work that are beyond our twentieth century architects; such as arches without keystones, leaning walls, round corners, hanging terraces and so on. The walls are all enormously thick and the rooms rather small, even in the houses of the governors or kings or whatever they were called. Most of these rooms are now inhabited by bats and are not at all pleasant places. There are no flat ceilings to be found. All are finished with pointed arches.

In only a few places can any idea be had of what the interior decorations were like, as the coating over the rough stones of the walls has generally gone. Where it still remains it can be seen that frescoing and mural painting were the rule. From these paintings, as well as from the carvings, has been obtained the only knowledge we have of the costumes and customs of the people of that day.

The builder, or designer, of each temple or palace, put his mark on it in an odd way. It is the imprint of his hand in red dye upon a stone near the main entrance. This hand mark is always found under the final coat of plaster which originally covered the stones. As the plaster has now scaled off the hand prints can be seen. A remarkable thing shown by these old handprints is that in each case the second and third fingers were of the same length.

Another form of sacrifice for which these ancients had a great predilection was the drowning of young girls. This was considered a great honor and for a month before the event the selected victim was treated to every luxury and indulgence. Then she was taken to the sacrificial cenote, an enormous natural well in the limestone, 200 feet in diameter and 100 feet deep. She was pitched into this and allowed to drown while the populace crowded to the edges and enjoyed themselves.

Around the stone platform from which the priests used to hurl the girls several big trees are now growing, loaded with magnificent orchids.

The Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

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NOTE AND COMMENT

"ACCESS to the land should be free to all who are willing to labor." This is an axiom which needs no argument. It is also exactly what is being done in Mexico today and in no other country under the sun.

* * *

AN organization of leaders has been formed in Mexico City for the purpose of supporting the candidacy of the First Chief for the Presidency at the coming election which will probably be held in January. Included in that organization are Generals Obregon, Pablo Gonzales, Benjamin Hill, Candido Aguilar, Cesario Castro, Francisco Coss and others.

* * *

GOVERNOR ALVARADO of Yucatan has under consideration the calling of a congress of newspaper men at Merida before long. There ought to be a goodly number of American writers in attendance in order that they may secure some first hand information regarding conditions in Mexico, although the sad experiences of the journalists who visited that country by invitation of Huerta may deter any of that party at least from again venturing so far from home.

* * *

DURING the months of July, August and September the great steel plant at Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, exported twenty thousand tons of steel, of which 1774 tons went to Italy, 2774 tons to Liverpool and 15,432 tons to France. This material it is supposed was utilized in the manufacture of munitions of war. These facts afford an apt commentary upon the popular idea that Mexico's industries are ruined and her working people without employment. The steel works in question afford employment for several thousand hands.

* * *

THE assertion has been widely circulated in the American press that the decree calling for Congressional elections and the limiting of the Presidential term to four instead of six years, besides abolishing the office of Vice-President, also specified that the President was to be chosen by Congress and that the people were to have no hand in his selection. As can be seen from the text of the decree recently received, there is no foundation for this statement. The part played by Congress in the selection of a President is only in case the one chosen by the people resigns or becomes entirely incapacitated or dies during the last year of his term of office. Then Congress is to have power to choose a successor to complete the unexpired term.

THE REVIEW wishes to compliment the Christian Science Monitor of Boston upon the fairness and accuracy of its reports regarding Mexican affairs. It spares no pains to secure the truth, and eschews sensationalism in this respect, as indeed it does in all others. The high character and wide circulation of the Monitor are eloquent testimony to the fact that there is a very large body of the American people to whom the average sensational and inaccurate newspaper of the day does not appeal.

* * *

MILITARY training has been established in all primary and preparatory schools throughout the Republic, Boys will be trained in the manual of arms and girls will be taught nursing. One of the leaders has declared, in support of the innovation, that if the common people are taught military tactics, there will never again be an opportunity for a usurper to seize control merely because he has a few thousand armed men behind him willing to obey his orders without question.

* * *

THE accuracy of the information possessed by some writers and editors as to the Mexican situation has an apt illustration in a recently published statement that Zapata had dispatched a force of a thousand men northward "to join Villa." The method of transportation adopted was not specified, but it must surely have been a "flying column," since nothing but aeroplanes could have served. One might as well talk about a column of the Allied troops marching across Germany to join the Roumanians. The case is equal.

* * *

A NEW daily paper, "El Universal," has been established in Mexico City under the direction of Señor Felix S. Palavicinni, who resigned his position as Secretary of Public Instruction and Bellas Artes for the purpose of publishing it. Copies received here demonstrate that the editor knows what are the essentials of a good newspaper and knows how to carry them out. An especially interesting feature is correspondence from every portion of the Republic, making it invaluable to those desiring to keep in touch with the march of events.

* * *

MANY of the troops under command of General Treviño have petitioned that official to allot lands to their families in order that they may cultivate them when their services are not required. This is similar to the action taken by many of General Pablo Gonzales' soldiers in the southern portion of the Republic. It is at the same time an answer to the oft-heard allegation that the Mexicans in the army would rather follow a military than a civil life. The greater portion of the soldiers look forward anxiously to the time when they can lay down their arms and return to their families and their farms. Many who are in the wandering bands have joined them simply because mines and other industries are closed down and no employment is to be had. The reopening of these enterprises would practically put an end to such irresponsible bands.

LAND has been purchased in Guadalajara by the Government and the erection of a municipal hospital will soon be commenced.

President Wilson Re-elected

THE re-election of President Woodrow Wilson as the head of the American government carries to Mexico the assurance of the continuance of a sympathetic appreciation on the part of the executive of the great sister Republic that the recent six years of almost unremitting strife has been the manifestation of the efforts of a proud people to free themselves from the thraldom of a despotic form of government and to institute as the basis of government the principles of true constitutional democracy.

The campaign for the re-election of Mr. Wilson, in so far as the Mexican policy of the 1913-1917 administration is concerned, has been defensive.

During the three and a half years since Mr. Wilson entered the White House the apparently dominant thought in his mind with regard to Mexico has been the betterment of the people of that Republic. Mr. Wilson has been sympathetic. He has striven from the outset of his term to avoid interference in the affairs of Mexico on behalf of any group or groups of American or other foreign capitalists whose right to exploit the resources and the productivity of Mexico at the expense of her people he has consistently questioned.

It has been asserted by the political opponents of Mr. Wilson that the agencies which he has from time to time employed to seek out for his enlightenment the true conditions prevalent in the nation have been unwise. Be that as it may, his selections have been sufficiently varied in their opinions and their personal predilections and personal policies to afford the opportunity for Mr. Wilson to exercise that indubitable power of analysis which he possesses to form a concrete, succinct and accurate opinion with regard to the future policy of the American government in the international relationship with his next-door neighbor, and the second administration of Woodrow Wilson may be expected to witness the restoration of complete amity between Mexico and the United States, which is the prayer of every patriotic and peace loving Mexican and American as well.

The attitude of Mr. Carranza with regard to President Wilson is summed up in his most recent utterance on international questions in which he said:

"Among the finest things that any American President has ever done was Wilson's refusal to tolerate the tyrant Huerta. It was such an act as one would expect from an emancipated and democratic people, and it was an inspiration to all Latin-American Republics."

THE statistics regarding mineral production in Mexico do not bear out many rather loose assertions that have found wide credence in this direction. For example, for the fiscal year 1915-16 the total production of silver in the Republic was 61,000,000 ounces, or 28.86 per cent of the world's output. For the fiscal year 1911-12 (known as a record year), the total production was 97,000,000 ounces, or a little over one-third more than that of last year. And yet the world is asked to believe that the mining industry in Mexico is ruined, that the greater portion of the mines have been closed down, and that the direst possible conditions prevail. Facts—solid silver facts—are difficult to disprove, and the figures given are commended to the consideration of those who disseminate and those who believe any sort of report that is discreditable to Mexico.

THE ELECTIONS

THE elections for members of the Constituent Congress were held on October 22d throughout the entire Republic. The only locality excepted is that small portion of the State of Chihuahua where there are still some wandering bands of armed men, but no place of any importance was prevented from participating. There was a great popular interest in the affair and some six parties were in the field in various States. Every citizen of the Republic who desired to do so cast his ballot, and unusual interest was taken, especially by the Indians, who voted in large numbers for the first time. The newspapers all report perfect order and the polling of a large vote. No compilation has yet been made and the total number of votes cast is not known, although as stated it is clear that it will reach large proportions.

The Congress thus elected will meet at Queretaro on November 20th, and will revise the National Constitution, adopting, amending or rejecting the various decrees issued by the First Chief during the revolution.

After the adoption and promulgation of the new constitution, the States will elect Governors to take the place of those appointed during the revolution, and these in turn will call an election for National Congressmen. This body will call a Presidential election, and the successful candidate will be installed in office in a brief period after the announcement by Congress of the result of the election. To the successful candidate the First Chief will turn over the executive power that he has wielded during the revolutionary period, and thus will come the restoration of Constitutional Government which was destroyed by Huerta and his fellow traitors and assassins in 1913.

It is expected that the Presidential election will be held either in the latter part of January or the first of February, and it would not be surprising if the President were installed on the anniversary of the seizure of the government by Huerta, as such would be an appropriate date for the ceremony.

Investing Millions in Mexico

NEW YORK papers announce the organization of the Southern Oil and Transport Corporation, a combination of Mexican producing and transportation companies and a United States shipbuilding company.

A. H. Martins & Co., of No. 61 Broadway, offer for public subscription at $8 a share, $3,000,000 of the capital stock. The corporation has an authorized capitalization of $20,000,000, par value $10, and has issued $11,650,000.

The company exchanged $8,650,000 of its capital stock for the entire capital stock of the Scottish-Mexican Oil Company, Ltd., the Tampico Navigation Company, the Fuel Oil Distribution Corporation, the Tank-Dash Shipbuilding Corporation, with yards at Newburgh, N. Y., and for a 60 per cent. interest of the Tal-Vez Company, and for a 50 per cent. interest in the Producers' Terminal Corporation, with loading terminals at Tampico.

Colonel John Denny of Denny & Bros., shipbuilders, Dumbarton, Scotland; Charles F. de Ganahl, President of the Tampico Navigation Company, and managing director of the Scottish-Mexican Oil Company, and Charles F. Rathbone, director of the Scottish-Mexican Oil Company, will be directors of the new company.

"The Whole Truth About Mexico"

THIS is the title of a book by Francisco Bulnes, who has filled so many official and other public positions in Mexico as to require nearly a page to enumerate them. A more or less careful perusal of the work discloses the unfortunate fact that if the author is to be believed, there is not one honest, patriotic, capable man in all that country—with the possible exception of Señor Bulnes himself. It is unfortunate that a native of any country should have so poor an opinion of his own people, and one irresistibly is reminded of the proverb regarding the character of birds that defile their own nests. One thing is certain, if any one wishes to learn "The Whole Truth About Mexico" he will *not* find it in the pages of the work noted.

GENERAL C. H. M. Y AGRAMONTE

Reading His Own Obituary Notices

IT is not given to many men to read their own obituaries, but that old time American, General C. H. M. y Agramonte, known to practically every foreigner in the Republic, and particularly in Mexico city, as a living example of perennial youth, not long ago had that "pleasure." And it was no ordinary obituary either, but a thrilling account of his own execution—how he went bravely to the appointed spot, refused to have a bandage put over his eyes, and died like the gallant man he is and always has shown himself in a long life full of death defying experiences. The General, as may well be believed, took a deep interest in the account, as well as a still deeper interest in ascertaining the identity of the malicious correspondent who sent the false report broadcast over the world, causing thereby infinite sorrow to his far away family and old time friends in other countries, who naturally gave full credence to the circumstantial account of the alleged execution, backed as it was by the authority of a news gathering association whose watchword is popularly but somewhat erroneously supposed to be "accuracy." So far as has yet transpired, the papers that circulated the falsehood did *not* publish the contradiction that was sent them, and thousands of foreigners undoubtedly still believe that the General long since occupied a bloody grave.

School Progress in Aguascalientes

It is a scant year since the State of Aguascalientes was pacified and came under complete control of the Constitutionalists. The school year has just closed and Governor Gregorio Osuna reports that for that period there was expended upon the educational system the sum of $142,887. There are in the capital city nineteen official schools, as also one preparatory school, one normal school, one school for drawing and one for the blind. In the elementary schools there were 7883 promotions of pupils from 6 to 12 years of age and 1556 of those over 12 years.

The primary schools presented 699 for examination, of whom 624 passed with a percentage of 89 and over. The superior schools presented 633 for examination, and of them 567 passed with a percentage of over 91.

This is surely a creditable showing for a country that is popularly and mistakenly supposed to be in disorder and overrun by leaders whose sole or principal idea is personal profit. The record made by the Governor of Aguascalientes is merely that of a single State. The major portion of the Republic can make one almost as good and in some localities better.

How Argentina Treats Foreigners

IN view of the discussion regarding the new Mexican law governing foreigners engaging in various forms of business in that country, it is interesting to note that Argentina is following the example set by Mexico in this respect, so far as affects shipping owners. Among other provisions of the recent Argentine Naval Reserve bill is the following:

> "The owner, on soliciting the inspection of the vessel, shall declare that he submits to all the navigation laws and regulations of the Republic, *without taking any foreign laws into consideration, even though he may be a foreigner.*
>
> "All owners living abroad must advise a legal address in this country in order that all the clauses of Argentine law may be carried out *without recourse to foreign jurisdiction.*"

So far as noted, there has been no protest from aggrieved foreigners against these rather drastic regulations, and no foreign government has seen fit to criticize the law or declare that it will not be recognized.

But then, the Argentine Republic is *not* Mexico!

The Right to "Protection"

There is such widespread misunderstanding and misapprehension regarding the right of a foreigner in a foreign country to demand protection from his home government against real or fancied grievances, that it is of interest to find the matter so succinctly set forth as in the following from the New York Evening Post:

> The general principle is that an American who goes to a foreign country places himself under foreign jurisdiction. All that his own country can insist upon is that he be given the same protection as the natives by the local authorities and the courts. And domestic insurrection or civil war puts an entirely different aspect on the rights of foreigners.

The foregoing is most earnestly commended to the consideration of all foreigners in Mexico as well as other countries.

A SCHOOL of Journalism has been established by the Department of Education and Fine Arts in Mexico City.

A Mexican's Lecture on Mexico

Senor Luis G. Bossero's Interesting Talk before the Congregational Club of New York

IN a lecture delivered by Señor Luis Bossero, a Mexican citizen, before the Congregational Club, of New York City and vicinity, he traced the entire tragedy of the land and the people beyond the Rio Grande. He not only made a clean sweep of the present situation, but in a very interesting and intelligent manner reviewed the whole historic upheaval of his strife-torn country.

"The American people have been systematically misinformed in regard to the Mexican people and its revolutions, past and present," Señor Bossero charged. "The capitalistic interests of Mexico, foreign and native, are interested in the dissemination of falsehoods so as to bring about another period of dictatorship that may serve their own selfish ends," he contended.

"The interests antagonistic to the progress of Mexico can be divided into two classes—the traditional and the capitalistic. The traditional is formed wholly of Mexicans of the privileged class, that is, the Catholic Hierarchy and the great landowners."

Señor Bossero historically traced the entire development of the influence of the Catholic church in Mexico, their political intrigues and their desire to control the machinery of the Government; finally the awakening of the people, after many years of suffering, and the rise of the dreamer, Francisco Madero.

"As to political liberties, the Mexicans had none," Señor Bossero declared, speaking of the Diaz regime. "Governors, representatives and in general all elective posts were filled up by General Diaz himself, after due consideration, with his favorites. If public education had been imparted to the masses the regime of Diaz would have been upset long before. It was overthrown at last because Diaz and his friends could not prevent the masses from acquiring a little knowledge, for no one can go against progress and evolution."

He traced carefully the tragedy of Madero, the usurpation by the assassin Victoriano Huerta, and the continuation of the revolution by General Carranza at the head of the Constitutionalist party. He maintained that General Carranza's success and popularity are due in a large measure to the fact that he earnestly and fearlessly fought for the principles and ideals of Madero.

The most interesting part, however, of Señor Bossero's lecture was the one dealing with the reconstruction of Mexico and the accomplishments achieved by the revolutionists since the recognition of Carranza by the United States. He depicted a new era in his strife-torn country and presented thousands of illuminating facts showing that a brighter day has dawned for his land of strife and sorrow.

"Public education, on which the Constitutionalist party bases all its hope, has been attended to immediately, and even during the time of war, eighteen months ago, one hundred and sixty Mexican teachers were sent to the United States to study the methods of education in this country and adopt them for the needs of Mexico. Thousands of new schools have been opened through Mexico and the whole system of education has been reorganized. The establishment of rural schools and of traveling schools which go from farm to farm, is an achievement never heard of before in Mexico. The Government has also established agricultural experimental stations to aid the farmers; public libraries, museums and lecture courses have been inaugurated free of charge. A feminine congress has been installed by individual initiative, and has met with strong support, and a notable session was held early in the year in Yucatan.

"The community lands, of which the towns were despoiled during the Diaz regime, have been returned in many cases. All will be restored as each community establishes its claim in due form. Lands have also been returned to small farmers, of which they were despoiled by the favorites of Diaz and Huerta. The distribution of public lands and the establishment of pueblos has been actively in process for over a year. Any one can obtain an allotment of land if he asks for it. The land is not sold, but is given to the people for operation. They in return cannot sell it either; it is theirs for the operation of it only. However, it automatically ceases to be theirs if they do not cultivate it. Enough land is given to individuals so as to satisfy their needs and those of their families. Bureaus to assist the young and inexperienced farmers have been established by the Government. This is part of the agrarian program of the Carranza Government."

Señor Bossero declared that in the settlement of the agrarian problems there is to be no confiscation. There is no need of that in Mexico, as the Government has plenty of national land at its disposal. One of its main features is to be an equitable taxation of all lands, whether cultivated or not, and this will prevent speculation in land indulged by many foreigners in Mexico.

The strides made by the Constitutionalists in the resumption of the railroad service, the establishment of the international money order system, the postal service and the undertaking of many important engineering tasks so as to facilitate the commercial growth of Mexico, were told by Señor Bossero. He revealed to his audience an entirely different Mexico from what they had been led to believe.

"This is the work most of the American papers ignore," he said sadly. "Mr. Carranza has been charged repeatedly with not endeavoring to restore Mexico to Constitutional order. It is not he who has plunged Mexico into chaos and and anarchy. Anarchy existed in Mexico from the moment Madero was assassinated and his power was usurped by the traitor Victoriano Huerta, the very same man whom so many Americans begged President Wilson to recognize as the legal authority of Mexico. It was he who plunged Mexico into chaos and anarchy. Mr. Carranza's chief aim always has been the restoration of peace in our country."

Señor Bossero devoted some time to the explanation of the banking and mining decrees issued by Señor Carranza. He contended that they were promulgated by the necessity of restoring Mexico to its normal condition. It was done for the sake of peace and prosperity of the country.

"The truth is that the wealthy mine owners of Mexico have been and are the champions of intervention, and if not successful in that, at least hope to restore the old regime of special privileges, graft and concessions."

The banks which are now complaining of the legislation promulgated by Señor Carranza, Señor Bossero declared, have long ago ceased to function as institutions of public welfare, but acted only as speculative agencies. They always were the agents of the reactionaries, and backed the Villa and Zapata currency against that of Carranza and in every form sought to undermine the Constitutionalist Government.

Señor Bossero deprecated the fact that the newspapers here make strenuous efforts to hide the achievements and accomplishments of the Constitutionalists, always playing up their errors. "They have painted Mexico dark enough, but you have not been told of its many bright sides," he concluded sadly.

An Inspiring Tune and Words

ONE of the most inspiring of all patriotic airs of the various countries of the world is the Mexican National Hymn. It resembles very much the "Marseillaise," and is well calculated to arouse enthusiasm. For this reason, under the Diaz regime it was a punishable offense to play the tune in public without first having asked for and received permission from the authorities. In consequence it was seldom heard except on occasions of great state. Under the new Government, however, this prohibition has been removed and wherever there is music one is apt to hear the National Hymn. Pursuant to request THE REVIEW herewith gives the Spanish and the English words of the hymn.

Himno Nacional de Mexico

MEXICANOS al grito de guerra,
El acero aprestad y el bridón,
Y retiemble en sus centros la tierra
Al sonoro rugir del canón.
Y retiemble en sus centros la tierra,
Al sonoro rugir del canón.

Cina, oh patria, tus sienes de oliva,
De la paz el archángel divino,
Que en el cielo tu eterno destino
Por el dedo de Dios se escribió.
Que en el cielo tu eterno destino
Por el dedo de Dios se escribió.

Mas si osare un estrano enemigo
Profanar con su planta tu suelo,
Piensa, oh patria, querida que el cielo
Un soldado en cada hijo te dió,
Un soldado en cada hijo te dió

The Mexican National Hymn

AT the loud cry of war all assemble,
Then your swords and your steeds all prepare,
And the earth to its center shall tremble,
When the cannon's deep roar rends the air.

Oh my country entwine on thy temples,
Boughs of olive so fresh and so vernal,
When inscribed in the heavens eternal,
Blessed peace for all the land thou dost see.

But if stranger and foe in their boldness,
Dare to tread on thy soil, they must perish.
Then, oh my country, this thought only cherish—
Every son is but a soldier for thee.
Every son is but a soldier for thee.

Two doctors in Guanajuato who have been experimenting with an anti-typhus serum, have discovered that one made from the blood of convalescents from that disease produces almost certain cure. Four injections of the serum have been found to be sufficient, and many cases have been successfully treated in this manner.

Truth About Church Affairs

Mexican Priests Unite in a Statement Correcting Widely Published Misstatements.

Mexico City, October 30, 1916.

THROUGH the United States press and other reports from various sources information has reached us that the enemies of the Mexican revolution who are laboring against the same in various places of the American Republic have been distributing the most exaggerated reports concerning outrages which the Government of the Revolution, presided over by Venustiano Carranza, is alleged to have been committing against the clergy and against the Church.

Our silence would make us accomplices of politicians interested in circulating the above falsehoods, which being as they are cannot in any way favor the interests of the clergy and the Church. On this account we consider it our duty to make a categorical denial of the above reports and at the same time to set forth antecedents relating to such statements. It is true that during the year 1914 we had to deplore certain outrages, but at that time the situation of Mexico was really critical, it being known otherwise that such outrages were committed precisely by undisciplined troops inimical to the Revolution headed by Mr. Carranza, principally by the hordes of Villa and Zapata.

We consider it a matter of justice to say that ever since this Revolution started the reorganization of the various public services, in its effort to constitute a regular government, the guarantees and rights of all the elements constituting the Mexican people, have been increasing in their effectiveness day by day. At the present time no one can point out any concrete facts in support of the accusations we refer to, and on the contrary we are in the position to state that the civil as well as the military authorities of the Federation or of the States have respected the clergy and the Church not only with reference to their personnel but also in regard to the institution itself.

It is true that lately the Government has closed two churches of this city, responding to insuperable necessities of public service, but this has been done without violence and according to all the formalities of laws already in force, and choosing church buildings situated in small wards in which there are other churches open to worship. It could not be otherwise, inasmuch as this Revolution is of a political and social character and in no way religious, and as stated before, a respectful government is being progressively organized guaranteeing all the rights provided by the Constitution, and secondary laws, all of which authorizes us to confidently expect a prompt constitutional reorganization of the country, whereby we will all enjoy the benefits of peace, respect and guarantees of all our rights.

Parish of the Sacred Heart, Juarez Colony, City of Mexico. (Signed) Jose Cortes,
Avelino Garcia
Manuel Moreno
Pedro Merino
Roque Martin Zorilla
Adalberto Rojas
Luis Navarro
Salome Duenas
Valentine Terrazas
Bernardo Peralta
Heriberto Gonzales

Note: All of the signers above are members of the Mexican Clergy.

Low Cost of Living

AFTER two years of close investigation in a New York hospital it is announced that it has been determined that a family of three children with their parents can live comfortably on an expenditure for food of $7.50 per week, or a total of a little over thirty dollars per month. The writer had occasion a few years ago to determine the expenditure necessary to support a family of the same size, workers in a construction camp in Coahuila, and found after careful test that $3.50 weekly, Mexican money, was ample to provide all that was needed except meat, and this item of expenditure cuts no very large figure with the laborers of the class indicated. This was at a time when the rate of exchange was two to one, so that the expense noted was the equivalent of only one dollar and seventy-five cents American currency. It may also be added that in estimating the cost of food in mining and other camps on the frontier, where everything has to be purchased and freighted in from the ontside, an average expense of ten dollars monthly per man is taken as the standard, and for this amount food of the best and most nutritious kind can be provided in abundance.

Frontier Remedy for Rattlesnake Bites

APROPOS to the recent death of a taxidermist in Pittsburg, Pa., from the bite of a rattlesnake on the hand, the old frontier and Mexican practice in such cases may well be borne in mind. Prospectors and residents of remote localities in the west and southwest where rattlesnakes are common are wont to carry securely fastened in their hatbands a vial or other watertight receptacle containing bicarbonate of soda. If bitten on any portion of the body easily accessible, as the hand, arm or leg—those being the most frequently selected places for attack—a tourniquet made of a handkerchief or any other article convenient is tied between the wound and the heart. Then an incision is made across the punctures left by the fangs and deep enough so as to be certain that the cut reaches beyond their utmost possible extent. The edges of this incision are held apart and the bicarbonate is poured into the wound little by little. Contact with the venom of the snake gives the blood flowing therefrom a greenish cast, and when this ceases and the fluid resumes its normal color, the venom will have been neutralized. If no soda is convenient, the bitten person or a companion should apply his mouth to the open cut and suck the blood and venom from it for a considerable period, ejecting it from the mouth, though it may be swallowed with impunity, and if there be no abrasions on the lips or in the mouth that permit the poison to be absorbed by the blood, no evil results will follow. A little liquor administered to the bitten person is a good thing in order to counteract the shock, but the idea that alcohol is a specific in such cases is pretty well exploded. The knife, the soda and simple suction as described will cure the patient.

DEPOSITS of coal and petroleum have been discovered in the States of Guanajuato and San Luis Potosi, and the Government has appointed a commission to study them and devise means for their proper exploitation.

Martial Law for Bandits

THE First Chief has issued a decree imposing the death penalty, *after due investigation and taking of testimony*, upon any person caught in the act or definitely proved to have been guilty of assaulting, robbing or wrecking trains, or seeking to do so; all guilty of arson or robbery; all highway robbers or those guilty of attacks against the honor or life of any one; all who may be guilty of burglary; all who may attack rural dwellings and all who may attack any one in lonely places with intent to do evil of any character.

The decree provides for the following procedure:

"The Judge of First Instance of the municipality wherein the violation has been committed, or in his absence such judicial authority as shall be in the place, will take charge of the prosecution in accordance with the following rules:

"First—Should the delinquent be caught in the act, the corresponding authority shall immediately impose the corresponding penalty, without more ado than to draw up a declaration wherein will be given the details and proofs of the transgression, the declaration of the accused, the testimony of the party or parties effecting the apprehension, and other persons who may have witnessed the criminal act, and the penalty of death by shooting shall have been incurred.

Second—Should the delinquent not have been caught in flagrante, the judge having charge of the case must have effected the corresponding inquiries within 72 hours from the time that the accused may have been turned over to him. After the lapse of this period the judge shall summon to public hearing, to be held within 48 hours, to hear the accused, such witnesses who may accuse him, such as may defend him, and all the facts in the case shall be made known, and forthwith the prosecuting attorney shall be heard and the attorney for the defense, and the verdict shall be rendered forthwith."

In the face of these plain provisions for a trial, the major portion of the American press declared, either in head lines or introductory paragraphs, that the new decree provides for "Death Without Trial."

Conditions in Tepic Territory

GENERAL Juan Carrasco, chief of military operations in the Territory of Tepic and the State of Sinaloa, arrived in Mexico City recently and gave an interesting report of conditions under his charge. Peace prevails throughout the region noted, the small bands of marauders who had caused some trouble having either been dispersed or surrendered.

The summer rains were heavy and as a result the crops of corn and other grains now growing will be the largest known for many years. The mines that had been shut down are being reopened, while manufacturing industries, such as sugar refineries, cigar, shoe and clothing factories, etc., are now in full operation.

Not only are the inhabitants of Tepic and Sinaloa abundantly supplied with food and all necessaries for comfortable livelihood, but large exportations are made to other portions of the Republic not so favored.

THE anniversary of the violent dissolution of the National Congress and the imprisonment of a large number of the members by the usurper Huerta was appropriately celebrated in the capital city by a number of prominent Constitutionalist leaders on October 10th.

LATE MEXICAN NEWS

Translated from the Mexican Daily Papers

A COURSE of instruction in first aid to the wounded has been established in the public schools.

A KINDERGARTEN for deaf-mutes has been established in Mexico city under direction of Secretary of Gobernacion Acuña.

REPORTS from Chihuahua are to the effect that many mining properties are being reopened, as the disorders are confined to but a small portion of that State.

TRAIN service between Tampico and San Luis Potosi is now being conducted regularly, and the shipment of grain and other food products is greatly facilitated.

TRAIN service between Torreon and the city of Durango, as well as points beyond that on the Tepehuanes branch, has been in regular operation for some time past.

A NUMBER of mine operators have declared that the only reason for delay in reopening their works is lack of dynamite, and the Government is taking steps to remedy this.

ONE of the employes of the railway shops in Mexico City has invented a device for application to locomotives by which the speed is automatically decreased whenever by chance a certain ratio is reached.

GENERAL HERIBERTO JARA has resigned the Governorship of the State of Vera Cruz and Colonel Miguel Aguilar has been appointed in his place. General Jara was elected a member of the Constituent Congress.

INDUSTRIAL schools for girls and women have been opened in Queretaro, where instruction is given in scholastic branches, in the industrial arts, in hygiene, household economy, child-training and allied branches.

ORDERS have been issued that all former officers of the Federal army who have been serving in the Constitutionalist forces shall be dismissed and no longer be permitted in the military branch of the Government.

THE Government of the State of Yucatan is installing pumping plants and distribution systems in many towns and villages for the purpose of supplying adequate amounts of pure water for domestic use and tillage.

THE National Agrarian Commission will shortly restore to their Indian owners the "ejidos" of the town of Ixtapalapa, one of the suburbs of Mexico City, from which they were unjustly driven during the Diaz regime.

A FINANCE Commission has been established in the State of Colima for the purpose of advancing funds to small farmers in order to enable them to improve their holdings and raise the crops necessary for their families.

IN order to aid in the resumption of work in the mines throughout the Republic the import duty on dynamite from abroad has been reduced to four cents per gross kilo, or less than one cent per pound in American money.

THE newly installed civil authorities of the city of Vera Cruz are taking immediate steps for the more thorough sanitation of the place and all property owners are being instructed to comply with the regulations in this respect.

NIGHT schools for workingmen have been opened in the city of Queretaro and they have already gained a large attendance. Instruction is given in Spanish, English, arithmetic, geography, writing, music, drawing, and civil and moral duties.

THE school of instruction for members of the staffs of the leading Generals of the Constitutionalist army has been opened in the building formerly occupied by the national lottery, which was abolished among the early acts of the First Chief.

A COMPANY has secured permission to expend a million dollars in "oro nacional" in the construction of houses of good type and with all modern hygienic appliances in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, with the purpose of renting them.

A POPULAR subscription throughout the nation for the establishment of the Red Cross in Vera Cruz has just closed, with the total contribution of $2,467,012.87. This association has no connection with similar organizations in any other country.

A GEOLOGICAL expert says that the available sources of petroleum in sight in the United States will not last over thirty years at the present rate of consumption. This affords a hint regarding the conservation of the oil measures of Mexico.

THE industrial situation in Guanajuato has been greatly ameliorated by the reopening of many mines, thus giving employment to thousands who had been idle, and by the importation from other sections of abundance of corn and other food products.

REPORTS from the State of Guerrero have been received to the effect that the crops of corn, rice and other grains are more abundant than for years, while the mines that had been closed are being reopened and abundant employment furnished to laborers.

SECRETARY of Fomento Rouaix has issued instructions forbidding the purchase by any one of lumber, wood, charcoal and other forest products coming from localities where enemies of the Government still persist, as the money so paid is used for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

A NATIONAL School of Industrial Chemistry has been opened in Mexico City under the supervision of the Secretary of Public Instruction and Bellas Artes. An adequate plant will be provided for the purpose of imparting instruction necessary for the proper conduct of various industries.

THE Bank of Savings and Loan for Irrigation Works has been reopened in Mexico City for the purpose of loaning the funds necessary for the irrigation of small tracts of land. The first locality selected for this work is in the vicinity of Xochimilco, one of the suburbs of the capital city.

IN Guanajuato during the past month large quantities of corn and other food have been distributed among the idle miners and others who are in need from no fault of their own. This distribution will be continued until conditions are alleviated by the resumption of industrial activities.

A CABLE for purposes of telephonic communication is to be laid connecting Vera Cruz with Tampico, as well as other intermediate points of importance. It is a private company affair, but in return for the concession the Government has free use at all times of the wires for official purposes.

THE mines at Mapimi, one of the most extensive camps in the State of Durango, have been reopened and employment given to thousands of men. The guayule (rubber) operators have also resumed and large quantities of the plant are being gathered for treatment in the factories devoted to that purpose.

UNDER the instructions of General Pablo Gonzales the machinery of the sugar refineries in the State of Morelos, which had been largely ruined during the Zapatista occupation, has been placed in repair and in a short time that State will resume her importance as one of the leading sugar producing sections of the Republic.

THE period for the final cessation of circulation of the old paper currency has been extended to January 31, 1917, and the same date has been fixed for the final presentation of such currency to the Government for exchange with specie or new paper with specie reserve. December 31 and October 1 were the dates set at the outset for these purposes.

THE Constitutionalist Railways have opened a department of technical experiment, with the object of stimulating the inventive faculties of the employees and encouraging them to devise new labor saving and other valuable devices. It was for many years claimed that the services of foreigners were indispensable for the operation of the mechanical as well as the clerical department of the railways, but this belief has been rather thoroughly dispelled.

FOR the accommodation of the thousands of new schools established by the Constitutionalists, many new buildings have been erected, many old structures repaired, and many superfluous churches, already the property of the Government, have been turned over to the educational department as the most fitting use that can be made of them. The number of churches granted for religious uses by the authorities is in proportion to the population attending them and their ability to contribute to their support.

THE electric car lines of Mexico City have been placed in first class order again, having been seriously crippled during the Zapatista occupation of the early part of 1915, and it having been difficult to secure the necessary machinery and supplies owing to the situation in Europe. This has been remedied however and now the service is being re-established upon the former very efficient basis. Prior to the revolution the local transportation system of Mexico City and its suburbs was noted as one of the best and most extensive in the world.

A GOVERNMENTAL investigation is under way in the State of Zacatecas for the purpose of determining the reasons for the suspension of work in many mines, causing great distress among the working people. Where it is found that concessionaires have suspended operations without good cause, it is proposed that the Government itself shall operate such mines for the benefit of the working people. Zacatecas is entirely tranquil, so it is affirmed, and no good reason exists why most of the mines should not resume operations.

RELIABLE reports have been received of the execution recently in the State of Oaxaca by the Constitutionalist forces of Alfonzo Santibañez, the ex-Federal who surrendered, was given amnesty and afterward plotted and carried out the assassination of General Jesus Carranza, his young son Adelberto and the entire staff. Santibañez's staff were afterward captured and executed upon the same spot where General Carranza and his aides met their death, and ever since there have been unremitting efforts to capture the arch traitor and assassin, which has at last been accomplished.

GOVERNOR Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila has issued instructions to the Presidents of all municipalities under his government to include in their estimates for the coming year sufficient to maintain public education, health and hygiene, to give effective guarantees and facilities for all branches of agriculture, commerce and industry, to encourage the establishment of all forms of enterprise, and to inaugurate various public improvements in a liberal and democratic manner, in order that the purpose of the revolution to alleviate the condition of the common people shall be carried out.

THE municipal authorities of the city of Hermosillo, capital of the State of Sonora, maintain public stores where food articles of prime necessity are sold at moderate prices. The following will give an idea of the rates per pound as expressed in American gold: Lard, 22 cents; rice, 9 cents; sugar, 6 cents; flour, 3 cents; corn, 2 cents; panoche (brown sugar), 2 cents; soap, 2 cents; peas, 2 cents; beans, 6 cents; coffee, 22 cents; meat, 8 cents. That considerable business is done in these establishments is shown by the fact that in four days the total sales amounted to nearly fifty thousand dollars in the new paper currency.

A NOVEL feature of the excellent electric car system of Mexico City and its suburbs is the provision made for carrying freight of all kinds, including live animals, on the same cars with passengers. Each train is made up of two large cars—the one in front being for first class passengers and the one in the rear for second class, the fare in the first being exactly double that in the latter. One end of the second class car is partitioned off for freight, and here one can see chickens, goats, turkeys, pigs, calves, and other live stock, vegetables, flowers, fruit, wood, and all manner of rural products, all of which are conveyed to the heart of the city from distances of five to ten miles and more in the country. This is a very profitable portion of the company's business.

History Repeating Itself

OVER forty years ago conditions on the border were in very much the same state as they have been for some time past, though now happily much ameliorated. At that time Diaz was just establishing a permanent government after several years of internal warfare, exactly as Carranza is now doing under similar circumstances. In 1877 Congress, because of the numerous sensational reports from the border (exactly as now), called upon President Hayes for a report of the situation as disclosed by official papers on file in the State and War Departments. That report was made on November 12, 1877, and included many unofficial as well as the official statements sent to the government. The volume containing these reports is of deep interest, since as stated in many respects conditions as reported therein were very similar to those depicted in sensational statements that have found wide circulation during the half-dozen years just past.

Of especial interest in this connection andworthy of consideration by truth lovers, is the laconic comment of Lieutenant-General P. H. Sheridan, then in command of the United States army. It follows:

Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri,
Chicago, Ill., May 22, 1877.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the army.

It is my belief that all reports about raiding parties on the Mexican frontier of Texas should be received with very great doubts.

There is a condition of revolution along the Mexican border which is stimulated to some extent by citizens of Texas, and if there is any raiding it is liable to be exaggerated.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

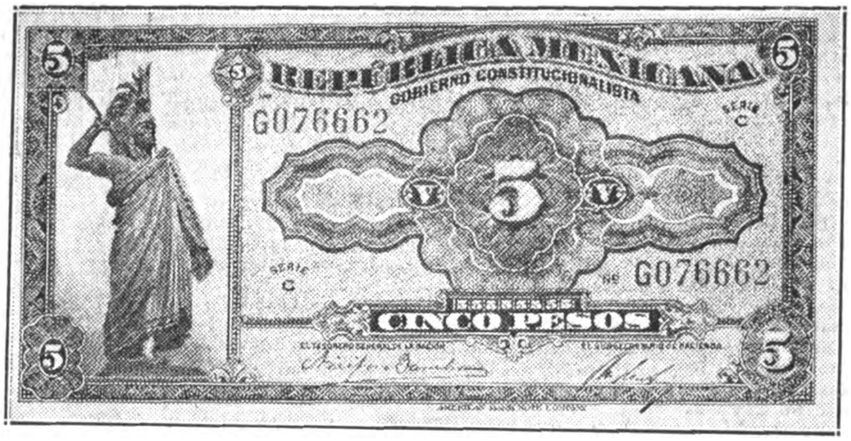
Reopening the Mines in Zacatecas

THE government has dispatched an expert commission to Zacatecas, with instructions to make a careful investigation of all mining properties which are not being operated by their owners. These are to be asked to give reasons for their action, and if any causes are alleged that are beyond the control of the owners, they will be removed by the Government. The owners will then be notified and asked to resume operations, but if they neglect or refuse to do so within a proper period, the mines will be operated by the Government for the benefit of the nation.

While it is not so stated in any way, it is believed by many who are cognizant of the situation that it will doubtless be found practicable in this manner to secure the metal necessary to put the currency of the country upon a satisfactory basis, as well as in large measure to rehabilitate the country's finances in every direction.

Mexico's Paper Currency

IN former issues THE REVIEW has described the paper currency issued by the Constitutionalists and to which their success was in great part due. Herewith are illustrations of both issues. The so-called "Vera Cruz" paper has all been practically retired and destroyed. The present issue is known as the "infalsificable," or non-counterfeitable, because of its high type of workmanship and superior quality of paper, and has an established value set by the Government and with a specie reserve behind it.



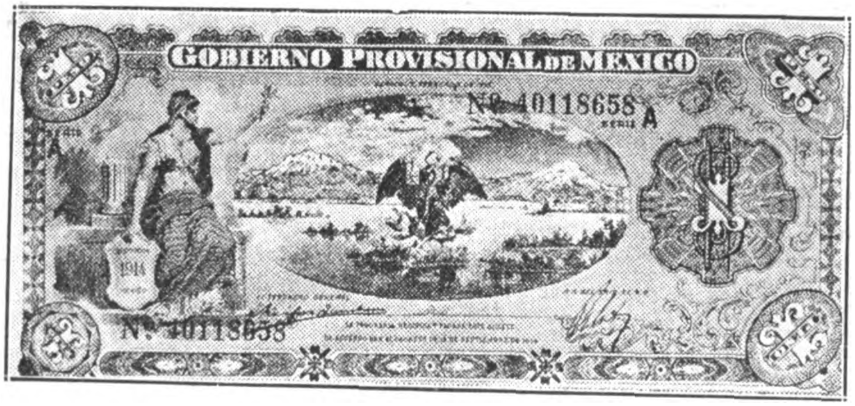
NON-COUNTERFEITABLE OR NEW CURRENCY. WITH SPECIE RESERVE. NOW IN CIRCULATION.

Daniel Webster's Opinion of Benito Juarez

THERE have recently been held throughout Mexico public exercises in memory of Benito Juarez, one of the great patriots who is held in the utmost respect and affection by the people. The daily paper "El Pueblo" in this connection published the following:

"When the eminent Daniel Webster, one of the most notable learned men upon whom the United States can pride themselves, visited Mexico, in those years when the Republic had just conquered the opera bouffe empire of the Austrian Archduke, the learned North American, referring to the great personality of Don Benito Juarez, made his judicial criticism in regard to him as a statesman, a reformer and a manager of governmental affairs, in the following terms:

"'In the United States we have not had, up to the present time, any man comparable to the imperishable greatness of Juarez, whose name will travel through all time in the history of America.'



"VERA CRUZ" CURRENCY NOW RETIRED

"And years after, when he who said this occupied one of the seats in the Senate at Washington, and some of his colleagues approached him, calling his attention to his words, which had already circulated widely in the passing pages of both countries, and remarked to him that the United States could pride themselves, at least, upon politicians, statesmen, and patriots such as the illustrious Washington, Jefferson, and other leaders, this same Daniel Webster, without wavering and with the inborn firmness of his personal convictions, answered at once:

"'What I then expressed in Mexico, gentlemen, I repeat today right here: above all our great men, the apocalyptic figure of the remarkable Mexican towers.'"

She Wanted Nero Arrested

SCENE—The Malecon, Vera Cruz's favorite resort on the seawall, where the gulf breezes can be enjoyed to the utmost.

TIME—Sunday afternoon when the place is crowded and the bands are playing.

PERSONS—An old blind man; an old woman, both sitting side by side on the ground near the edge of the walk, the woman, with a pitiable little stock of bananas worth perhaps ten cents in gold, which she is vainly offering for sale.

The old man, who presents not the slightest indication of unusual intelligence or education, in the intervals between the music was telling his companion about Huerta, the usurper, and was comparing him to Nero. He told of the assassinations of the President and Vice-President and of the wholesale executions of political offenders in the city, also of the many other deeds of wrong and cruelty that he had committed.

He also told of Nero and his many crimes—throwing Christians to the wild animals, burning them alive, torturing them, and of many other brutalities.

Concluding the long recital, he summed up with the verdict that while it was undoubtedly true that Nero had been so guilty and had done all that was ascribed to him, Huerta was beyond question the worse of the two, as in his belief Nero had undoubtedly some good traits of character, while it was impossible to determine that Huerta had a single redeeming feature.

"But Huerta will be punished," said the well-read blind man. "He has been arrested. He is even now in jail and he will surely be punished."

"That is well," replied the old woman. "But how about Nero, that man without shame? Has he not been arrested also? Will he not be punished for these horrible things you tell me he has done? Does he too not deserve punishment?"

The historian's reply was lost in a burst of music.

NOTES OF INTEREST

IT is estimated that the total "visible" supply of oil in the Tampico district is a mere trifle—fourteen billion barrels. With oil at two dollars a barrel, how long would it take Mexico to put herself on a sound financial basis with this vast bank account to draw upon?

SOME of the desk geographers in the United States at one time put Zapata in the field with several thousand men, "marching north to join Villa." The ignorance of the geography of Mexico displayed by many editors and writers during the past five years has been colossal, but this is one of the worst examples yet seen.

Reports that there was yellow fever in Tampico are declared to be without foundation by the authorities, who also declare the sanitary condition of that port to be good, with no unusual sickness and no epidemic of any kind. This statement was elicited by the imposition of a quarantine in American ports against Tampico on the allegation of the existence of yellow fever there.

AT a recent exhibition in New York city the fact was emphasized that the first printing done on the American continent was in the city of Mexico—and by the way the very building where it was produced is still standing. It is a fact that excellent printing and a large volume of it was done in Mexico nearly a hundred years before any great progress was made in what is now the United States. The first printing in Mexico city was in 1539, while the first in New England was a century later—or to be exact in 1638. When this statement has been made in the past in the United States it has usually been met with skepticism, but it is nevertheless a fact.

A BROOKLYN pastor is working to persuade the women of his congregation, and others as well, not to make church going the occasion for a millinery and dress parade, which inevitably distracts attention from the serious duties of the day. They do these things better in Mexico. It is the rule for women attendants at church to wear sober black, some costumes as is natural being of a finer texture than others, but in the dim light of the church interior such as is customary it is difficult to distinguish the rich from the poor, and there is nothing whatever in the costumes of the worshippers to attract attention of any kind. This example is one that is worthy of being followed.

ONE of the differences between Mexico and the United States: An American who had lived long enough in Mexico to have gotten over being in a hurry, was walking up a subway stair in New York recently in company with a companion from the land of the Aztecs. A crowd was pressing closely behind, and an impatient voice was heard to exclaim: "Say, those two fellows walk like they were going to a funeral." Whereat the two unhurried passengers flattened themselves against the wall and let the speed-crazed Americans rush on their way unmolested. And after a week of this sort of thing, the Mexican gave it as his deliberate opinion that the New Yorkers were almost without exception "tonto."

THE interesting information comes from some experimental station in the United States that it has been demonstrated that the common field growth alfalfa has very valuable food properties for human beings—something by the way that has been known to growers of that plant for many years, as alfalfa "greens" and "pancake flour" are quite familiar and favorite articles of food. But from the source mentioned it is learned that among the list of articles produced from this plant are: flour, coffee, tea, syrup, candy, tobacco, breakfast food, stock foods, axle grease and many other articles of common use as food or otherwise. A few years ago a government analysis of a favorite brand of smoking tobacco, much affected by plainsmen, developed the fact that it was 65 per cent alfalfa. And yet in view of these facts not so long since the world was harrowed by tales of suffering among Mexico's poor, who were represented as actually driven to eating "alfalfa and other poisonous weeds."

NEWS BREVITIES

Translated from the Mexican Daily Papers

GOVERNOR Salvador Alvarado of Yucatan has directed the organization of a corps of Boy Scouts under charge of the Department of Public Instruction.

La Luz and La Asuncion, two large mines in Guanajuato, have resumed operations in accordance with the recent decree of the First Chief regarding such matters.

THE Department of Fomento has sent a special commissioner to the United States to study forest conservation, with the idea of adopting measures deemed advisable in Mexico.

REPRESENTATIVES of the National Railway lines of Mexico have come to the United States for the purpose of purchasing new equipment to the amount of one million dollars.

THE Government of Guatemala has notified the Mexican Foreign office that a minister has been selected to represent the interests of that country and will soon arrive in Mexico City.

GOVERNOR Rafael Cepeda of the State of Mexico has issued instructions that in the shortest possible time schools for small children shall be established in all portions of the State.

A DECREE has been issued to the effect that all house rents in Mexico City of less than fifty pesos per month are payable in Constitutionalist paper of the new issue at par value. This measure tends greatly to the benefit of the poorer classes.

WORK has been resumed in the rich mines of San Pedro, in the State of San Luis Potosi. These are some of the oldest workings in the Republic, and while having yielded immensely in the past they are by no means exhausted.

A LINE of steamers of Japanese ownership has been established between west coast ports and Kobe. The first vessel to arrive at Mazatlan early in October was the Kiyu Maru. They will touch at Manzanillo and other important ports.

REPORTS from the Laguna district, the famous agricultural region in the southwestern portion of Coahuila, and including portions of Durango and Chihuahua, are that the rains have been abundant and that bountiful crops of corn, beans and other products are assured.

GOVERNOR Torres of the Territory of Tepic has apportioned unused lands temporarily to all applicants for the purpose of raising crops of grain, etc. In that portion of the country two or three crops are raised readily each year. In fact, continual cultivation can be practiced if desired.

IN anticipation of the Congressional election called for October 22, there were six parties in the field with candidates, as follows: The Partido Democratico, the Partido Constitucionalista Fronterizo, the Partido Constitucionalista Reforma, the Partido Liberal, the Partido Rationalista Republicano, and the Partido Socialista.

TRAFFIC has been resumed on the Coahuila and Pacific Railroad, connecting Torreon and Saltillo, and passing through a rich section. This line had not been in use for more than two years, it having been put out of commission by the various military forces that have controlled this portion of the State of Coahuila during the revolutionary years.

A PROJECT is under way for the establishment of a line of steamers between Mexican and Central American ports. At present communication is, as it has always been, difficult and circuitous, and it is believed the proposed line would secure ample business and at the same time cement the friendly relations between those countries.

THE REVIEW has private advices from the coal region of Coahuila. Most of the coal mines have resumed operations—some of them never having shut down throughout the revolutionary troubles. The employes are being paid a portion of their earnings in silver and gold coin, which proves a very satisfactory solution of the currency and wage questions.

GENERAL Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Relations, has made an energetic protest to the Cuban government against the persistent untruthful and scandalous attacks made by two daily papers in Havana upon the Government of Mexico. These papers are "El Dia," and "El Diario de la Marina." Both are said to be subventioned by the Cuban Government.

UNDER instructions of the Secretary of War a careful and detailed record is being made of all the deaths during the revolution of members of the Constitutionalist army. A commission has been appointed in each State to perform this very important duty, and it is believed the results of their work will show that the mortality of the revolution has been greatly exaggerated.

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FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

Translated from the Mexican Daily Papers

THE customs receipts at Vera Cruz for the month of September were $835,235.05 in American gold values. This is the most important port in the Republic, Tampico ranking as second.

AN association of ladies in Mexico City recently inaugurated the distribution of milk free of cost among the poor, with the result that infant mortality has been largely decreased.

GOVERNOR ADOLFO DE LA HUERTA of the State of Sonora has given notice that he proposes to establish rudimentary schools in the most remote haciendas and mines throughout the entire region under his jurisdiction.

DURING the months of September and October the importation of drays and omnibuses for carrying passengers was permitted free of duty in all portions of the Republic. The tariff on vehicles of all classes is quite high.

BY order of the First Chief modifications of the export tariff have been made on the following articles: Chicle, $25 per ton; rubber, $25 per ton; dyewood, $2 per ton; mahogany, $6 per tree; cedar, $6 per tree; other woods, $3 per tree. These taxes are payable in Mexican specie.

A NEW port of entry with separate custom house has been established at Puerto de Lobos, in the State of Vera Cruz. This was deemed advisable in order to lighten the duties and facilitate the business heretofore pertaining to the port of Tuxpam. The location is about midway between Tuxpam and Tampico.

SECRETARY PASTOR ROUAIX of the Department of Fomento has decided to visit the mining regions of Durango, Chihuahua, Sonora, Sinaloa and other leading mineral producing localities for the purpose of ascertaining the actual condition of affairs and stimulating the general reopening of the mines.

THE old mint in the city of Durango has been renovated and repaired and the coinage of ten, twenty and fifty cent pieces of silver will be commenced, thus affording a profitable outlet for the bullion which is produced in large quantities in that section. The terms upon which the metal will be coined are not stated.

GENERAL EDUARDO HAY has been appointed Sub-Secretary of the Department of Fomento and has entered upon the discharge of his duties. General Hay has been a revolutionary leader from the outset and carries on his body the marks of six bullets, that inflicted wounds his recovery from which was a surgicrl wonder.

THE Superintendent of Divisionof the National lines of railway between Gonzales and Saltillo has notified all employes that hereafter eight hours shall constitute a day's work, all over that shall be compensated, and coincidently all wages and salaries have been materially increased independently of the decrease in hours.

TWENTY new locomotives have been received by the National railway lines from the United States, while a large number have been repaired in the various shops at different points and are again in active service. Large numbers of freight and passenger cars have also been added to the equipment during the past month or six weeks.

THE second national congress of teachers and instructors is planned to be held in the city of Guanajuato within a brief period for the purpose of discussing the problems connected with the education of the people on the broad scale now being carried out by the Constitutionalist government. The first congress was held in Merida, Yucatan.

THE Government of the State of Sonora in giving all facilities for the establishment of as agricultural colony for German families.

GOVERNOR Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila has appointed inspectors of Agriculture in the various muicipalities, whose duty it is to examine into conditions and give necessary advice and instructions in order that the best methods may be followed for securing proper returns for the farmers.

CONCESSIONS have recently been granted by the Department of Communications and Public Works for the construction of several wharves on the Panuco and Carvajal rivers, in the State of Vera Cruz. These works are for the accommodation of oil producers and foreigners are the principal beneficiaries.

AN automatic device has been invented by a Mexican employe of the railways for installation in warehouses, by which whenever the temperature is increased to a certain point through any artificial cause, an alarm is rung in all the fire department stations and the apparatus can be dispatched to the scene before there is any open outbreak.

CONTRIBUTIONS for the lessening of the public debt continue to be received from many portions of the Republic. These are in the shape of paper currency, contributed outright or raised by entertainments of various kinds, which are destroyed immediately upon receipt by the treasury officials. Millions of dollars have been contributed in this manner.

TWENTY locomotives and 200 freight cars recently arrived at the border which had been purchased for use on the National Railway lines. This new equipment as well as the repairs to the lines have been paid for from the regular receipts of the roads. A number of new passenger and sleeping cars have also been purchased and will soon be in operation.

THE Department of Communication and Public Works has appointed ten civil engineers as inspectors of railroads, and they have commenced operations in this direction, making a thorough and careful examination of every detail of the operation of the various transportation lines. This work has been suspended during the restoration and repair of the roads.

THE Government has installed in the cartridge factory of the national arsenal in Mexico city new and modern machinery capable of turning out two hundred thousand rifle cartridges daily. There are employed in the arsenal over two thousand hands, who constitute a small town of their own, with stores, moving pictures, etc. It is expected that in the future there will be no necessity for the Government to seek supples of cartridges in foreign countries.

UNDER the recently adopted regulations requiring all employers to recompense any one injured while at work, Rafeal Acosta, a laborer for the Cananea Copper Comrany, in Sonora has been paid $5,000 Mexican silver (equal to $2,500 American gold) for the loss of an arm. Under the pre-revolutionary regime he would have received much less. Some mining companies in Mexico have been known to compensate families of employes who were killed by a payment of as little as $20 Mex.—$10 gold.

REPORTS received by the Secretary of Fomento from all portions of the Republic are to the effect that crops of all kinds are unusually abundant and that the supply of grain, beans and other products will be so plentiful as to obviate the necessity for importing such articles. In the chief agricultural States of the central region there is a large excess for shipment to other localities. This official statement is at variance with the unsupported assertions that have found wide circulation in the foreign press to the effect that there was a general abandonment of arable lands, a lack of crops, and an urgent necessity for the importation of food.

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LATE NEWS NOTES

Translated from the Mexican Daily Papers

THE Cunard Steamship Company has contracted with one of the leading Mexican petroleum companies for a supply of oil to the amount of fifty thousand barrels daily.

A NIGHT school for instruction in the arts has been opened in Mexico City especially for young ladies who are employed in the daytime. It is an annex of the School of Arts.

ON the 25th of October judicial power was established throughout the State of Guanajuato, pacification being complete and there being no further necessity for military rule.

A WIRELESS telegraph station has been established in the city of Oaxaca, provided with all the latest accessories for maintaining communication with the system throughout the Republic.

A MEDICAL military school has been opened in connection with the military hospital in Mexico City. The inaugural ceremonies took place on October 10th under the auspices of the First Chief.

A WEALTHY Philadelphian who died recently left two and one-half million dollars, the income from which is to be devoted to the erection of Presbyterian missions in Mexico and the United States.

THE Superintendent of Public Instruction of the State of Jalisco is establishing schools in all portions of the State and providing the necessary equipment in order to accommodate all children of school age.

Two baseball leagues with numerous members are now competing for pennants in the southern portion of the Republic. Great interest is taken in the game, which is gaining in popularity in every direction.

ALL contracts entered into in the Federal District for the construction of railway lines, especially street car systems, between the years 1852 and 1913, are being investigated with a view to proper regulation.

THE Tampico Petroleum Company, a foreign concern, has been granted permission by the Secretary of Fomento to construct a pipe line from its wells in the State of Tamaulipas to the newly opened port of Lobos.

THE Supreme Tribunal of Justice was re-established in the State of San Luis Potosi on November 1st, as had already been done in many other States that are in complete order and where military rule is no longer needed.

THE city authorities of Vera Cruz have established night schools for both men and women of any age over 15, who are employed in the daytime and thus prevented from acquiring an education. These schools are well attended by both sexes.

THE prohibition of bull fighting throughout the Republic by the First Chief recalls the fact that former Governor Luis G. Cervantes of Puebla was the first to forbid such "amusements" in that State. Almost simultaneously with this decree, General Candido Aguilar, then Governor of the State of Vera Cruz, caused bullfighting to cease in that State merely by refusing to grant permits for such affairs.

THE exportation of cattle from Mexico has been forbidden except through the ports of Nogales, Naco, Agua Prieta, Juarez, Ojinaga, Boquillas, Villa Acuña, Piedras Negras, Laredo and Matamoros. A zone twenty kilometers in width has been established for the entire extent of the border, and any cattle bred outside this zone and moved north or south are subject to confiscation. This decree was made necessary by the constant evasion of the tariff laws, largely by foreigners.

ACCORDING to statistics compiled on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Labor of the United States, Great Britain has a total investment in Mexico and Central America of $1,139,734,300, of which over one-half, or $798,106,000, is in Mexico. In South America British capitalists have $3.850,861,500, the greater portion being in the Argentine, with $1,897,935,000, and Brazil with $1,119.295,000. Of the entire $5,187,689,000 invested in the western hemisphere, $1,265,290,000, is in industrial and land enterprises of various kinds, the balance being in government bonds, railway securities, stocks, debentures, etc.

THE authorities of the city of Zacatecas are prosecuting with rigidity those who engage in the illicit sale of intoxicating beverages.

THE Government of the State of Hidalgo is purchasing the necessary site in the city of Pachuca for the construction of an extensive public Market, which is greatly needed, as present facilities in that respect are very inadequate.

BY decree of Governor De la Huerta of Sonora eight hours is hereafter to constitute a day's work in all lines of industry, and no one can be forced to work more than six days a week. This is in keeping with the laws that are in force in most if not all of the other States in the Republic. A minimum wage of $1.50 daily in Mexican gold or silver (equivalent to 75 cents in American gold), has also been decreed. Prior to the revolution thousands of men were forced to work on plantations and in the mines for as little as 25 to 50 cents daily (Mexican money.) From seventy-five cents to a dollar in Mexican money was regarded as liberal compensation for the most arduous toil.

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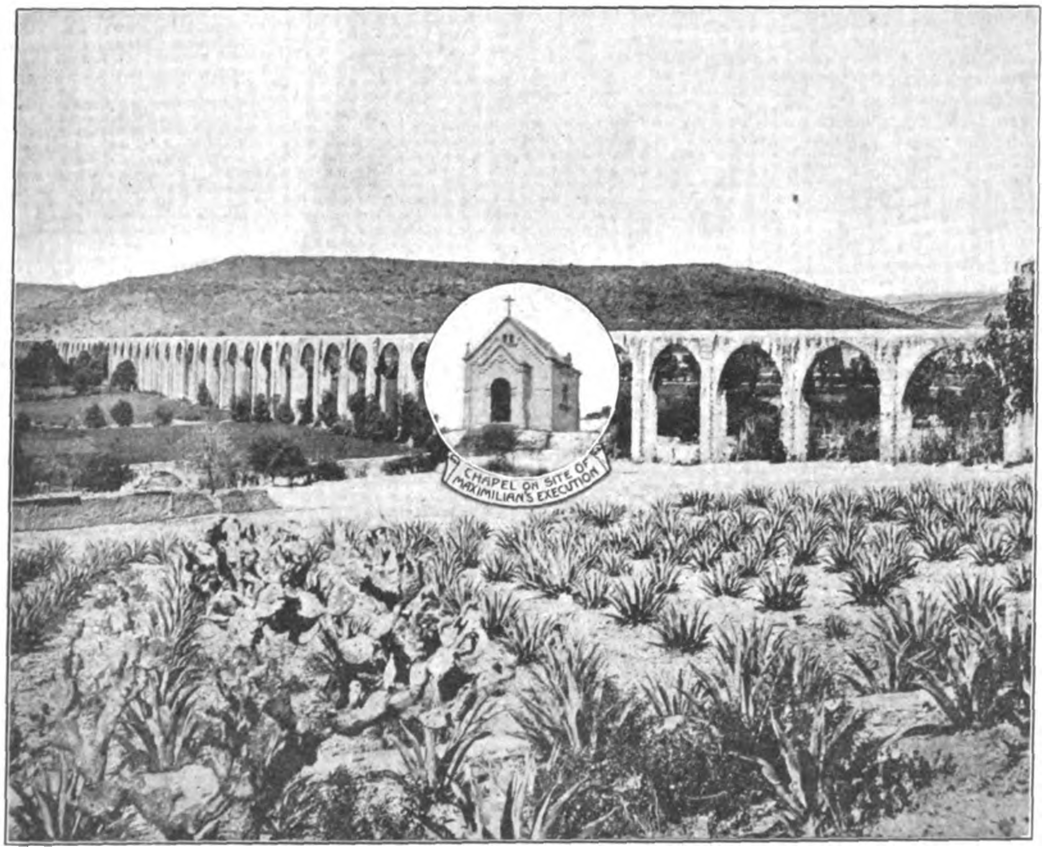
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THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS

Preliminary Steps Under Way For the Complete Restoration of Constitutional Government.

THE gathering of the Constituent Congress now in session in the city of Querètaro is what may be called the first "civil" step toward the restoration of Constitutional Government in Mexico, since its destruction by the usurper Huerta in February, 1913. From that date down to the calling of this Congress the time had been occupied in restoring peace and preparing the way for the resumption of constitutional forms, and in planning and carrying out so far as possible the leading reforms to which the Constitutionalist Government pledged itself at the outset.

Elections were held in every State in the Republic in October for delegates to this Congress, and every State is represented by members regularly chosen. There was no obstruction to these elections and several parties were in the field with candidates, the rivalry being keen in many places.

The call for this Congress specified its objects in the following phraseology:

THE OFFICIAL CALL

"The Constitutionalist cause having triumphed, and the Municipal elections having taken place, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Union, calls the elections for a Constituent Congress, fixing the date therefor and the length of time it shall be in session, and the place where the Congress shall be held.

"To form the Constituent Congress, the Federal District and each State or Territory shall name a Deputy and an Alternate for each sixty thousand inhabitants or fraction over twenty thousand, taking into account the general census of the Republic of 1910. The population of the State or Territory that may have less than the figure fixed by this order, shall nevertheless elect a Deputy and an Alternate.

"In order to be a Deputy elect to the Constituent Congress, the same requisites are necessary as those demanded by the Constitution of 1857 to be a Deputy to the Congress of the Union; but those can not be chosen as Deputies who have been impediments against the establishment of the said Constitution, or those who have aided with arms or served as public employes, governments or factions hostile to the Constitutionalist cause.

"Once the Constituent Congress is assembled, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Union, shall present the project of Constitutional reform for discussion, approval or modification, in the understanding that in said project is comprehended the reforms suggested, and which shall be carried on with expedition until the permanent organization of the Constituent Congress has been accomplished.

"The Constituent Congress shall not occupy itself with any other subject than that indicated in the preceding article; it shall discharge its trust within a period of time not to exceed two months, and at the conclusion, it shall submit the Constitution, in order that the Chief of the Executive Power may call, in conformity therewith, elections of general authorities in all the Republic. Its duties terminated, the Constituent Congress shall be dissolved.

"The election of the Federal officials verified, and the General Congress assembled, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Union, shall present a report on the state of the public administration, shall make declaration of the person elected for President, and deliver to him the Executive Power of the Nation."

In brief, the Congress now in session will adopt the necessary provisions for the holding of elections for a National Congress and for President and such other Federal officials as shall be agreed upon. The result of the Presidential election will be certified by Congress, and thereupon the First Chief will relinquish his authority as head of the Constitutionalist forces and the civil officials will take charge, thus re-establishing the Constitutional Government destroyed by Huerta.

GATHERING OF THE CONGRESS

Many of the Deputies to the Constituent Congress had arrived in Querètaro on November 20th, the day decreed by Don Venustiano Carranza, the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, for the opening session.

Lic. Luis Manuel Rojas
LM

President of the Congress

At eleven o'clock A. M., a meeting was called, held at the "Academia de Bellas Artes" (Academy of Fine Arts), but not a sufficient number of the Deputies were present to constitute a quorum.

A telegram was received from First Chief Carranza, in which he informed the Assembly that on account of delay due to the interruption of railroad traffic, it would not be possible for them to hold the preliminary session of the Constituent Congress until the following day, the 21st.

This started a considerable discussion, some maintaining the opinion that nothing but a decree from the First Chief could abrogate the decree convoking the Congress, others maintaining that the message from the First Chief was sufficient, coupled with the fact that there was no quorum present, and that the assembling of the Congress would be illegal under those circumstances.

It was finally decided to organize the Directive Board, and the following members were appointed: President, Deputy Antonio Aguilar, from the Eleventh District of Mexico, and Secretaries, Licenciado y General Ramón Frausto, Deputy from Guanajuato, and Juan Manuel Giffard, Deputy from the Twelfth District of Mexico.

A message was received from the Sub-Secretary of the Department of the Interior, Licenciado Aguirre Berlanga, directing that no official data would be given out until the following day.

This gave origin to a discussion as to why a quorum was not present, and it was suggested that alternates should be called urgently and telegraphically. Decision was against this, in view of the reasons given for the delay by the First Chief in his telegram previously announced.

The meeting was suspended. All were notified to be present the following morning (the 21st), at 10 o'clock.

Criticism was caused from the fact that a number of the Deputies were in military uniform, many of them carrying arms, which is prohibited in terms by law. On the other hand, an excellent impression was created by the civil dress of Senóres General Cándido Aguilar, Antonio Norzagaray, Samuel de los Santos and Colonel Luís F. Navarro.

At the meeting the following morning (the 21st) good feeling prevailed, and earnestness, with the full conviction that the work of the Congress and in Committee would be for the good of the country.

In the course of a speech which was received with great approval by the gathering, Engineer Palavicini said: "The Señores Deputies have not come in search of riches, of salaries, or with intention to gain thereby. Surely we, all sincere revolutionaries, have come to work for the good of the country, which will be a glorious honor for the Constituent members. God grant that our work be as effective as that of Zarco, of Gómez Farias, of Melchor Ocampo, of Ramírez, and many others of 1857. It surely will be if we leave out all our mixed interests, all our political passions, all our personal grudges; if we make nothing of all those, we shall triumph, and our work will be a beneficence, will be great, will be honored."

Licenciado Fernando Lizardi, one of the Deputies from Guanajuato, said that it was very clear that the tendencies of the meeting were to work for the country, and as had been said by Engineer Palavicini, it was necessary to labor with honor, for the good name of the Constituent Congress.

RECEPTION OF LABORERS BY THE CONGRESS

During the session on the morning of the 21st, and while the formation of the Directive Board and the presentation of credentials were under discussion, permission was asked, and granted, by a commission composed of the people of Querètaro, a very large number of them being representative men and women of the laboring public, to present their salutations to the Congress. Señor Licenciado Martí and Señor General José María Rodríguez, with the Señor Sub-secretary of the Interior, were appointed to receive the citizens of Querétaro, which was much applauded by the public.

In the name of the Commission, Señor Rafael Jiménez said that he desired that the earnest wishes of the public might be carried into practice, since they had placed their aspirations and their hopes in this body, whose work surely would be great, beautiful, notable and progressive, they being all in accord on the ideas of the Revolution, which had been given its beginning by the First Chief.

This was much applauded, and Señor Licenciado Aguirre Berlanga made response thereto. He said:

"It is a great satisfaction and an honor that I am privileged to speak to the Querétaro public and to the masses of laborers, so burdened with hardships in the past epochs, and I am sure that in each heart exists the conviction that the Deputies will give all their powers and unite in only one effort for the aggrandizement of the public and for the continuation of the Revolution, commenced by the Citizen Venustiano Carranza, whose grand figure, his patriotism and energy, are recognized both by those at home and by foreigners."

He was followed by Señor Benjamin L. Velasco, representing a branch of the Querétaro Liberal Party United, saying that the history of all the stages of the revolutionary movement of Mexico showed that the Constitutionalist is the most intense, the most transcendental and the most serious effort ever made.

The affair closed with cheers for the First Chief, and also for the Deputies of the Second Constituent Congress. The cheering for General Carranza was spontaneous and prolonged for several minutes, and much applause was given the Deputies."

Deputy Engineer Félix F. Palavicini made the following important declaration to the representatives of the press in Querétaro:

"Many deputations have opposed the formation of groups in the bosom of the Constituente. I, on my part, belong to none, confining myself to work in accordance with my conscience and without other engagements than the interests of the country. In ordinary Congresses, the Deputies group themselves frequently for defending personal or group interests . . . but by the Constituent Congress a common ideal is pursued, and all pettiness and ambition should be subordinated to the high purposes that the Congress purposes to accomplish."

ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST CHIEF

THE First Chief made the entire journey from Mexico City to Querétaro on horseback, accompanied by an escort and many friends. On his arrival at San Juan del Río, on the night of the 23d, the houses in the street through which he was to pass were all illuminated. All classes of the people received him with great enthusiasm, and he was wildly acclaimed by the populace. The mayor of the city, accompanied by a band of music, went out two miles from the town to bid him welcome, in the name of the State of Querétaro, manifesting joyously the affection of which he was the object.

On his entry into the city, he was met by Generals Manuel M. Diéguez, Federico Montes, Governor of the State of Querétaro; General Juan José Ríos, Govenor of Colima, and other high military and political personages.

Later, he renewed his journey toward Ahorcado, where he was to pass the night, leaving for Querétaro the next morning.

Great preparations had been made for festivities of welcome for First Chief Carranza on his arrival at Querétaro. In momentary expectation of his appearance, all business was suspended, and from nine o'clock in the morning, the bells of the temples of the city had been announcing his coming.

At exactly one o'clock on the 24th Carranza reached his stopping place, situated in the Avenida Francisco I. Madero, followed by more than ten thousand persons, among whom were professors and students from the school "Leona Vicario" and the "Colegio Civil," as well as business and Government employes, the police, and the forces that formed the Division of the Supreme Power. There was singing of the National Hymn, a March of Honor, gathering of the people on the balconies and bands of music. Everywhere was great rejoicing on the part of the public. At the edge of the city, in the Convent of the Cross, could be heard the National Hymn, the March of Honor was held, and the bells of the temples were ringing, as the pageant wended its way to the Plaza de Independencia and the Jardín Zenea. Flowers, confetti and "serpentinas" were thrown, amidst "vivas" and enthusiastic acclamations in the Chief's honor.

C. Aguilar

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS

At the corner of Avenidas Independencia and Constitución, Señor Rafael Jiménez spoke on behalf of the workers in the "Fbáricas de Hercules" and of "Hilados y Tejidos," the "Centro Social Fronterizo," the "Partido Liberal Querétano," and the people in general. Among other things, he said:

"The people of Querétaro and the liberal element salute their distinguished guest. All must feel pride, with liberal sentiments, in having with us, as we have, so great a man as the Chief of the Revolution.

"The population to-day, we citizens all, have faith in our First Chief, faith in the Revolution, and faith in Justice."

Señor Jiménez then launched a "hurrah" for the Revolution and for their distinguished Chief.

Señor Carranza then continued his way amidst many and joyous acclamations on the part of the populace, and under a rainstorm of flowers, confetti and "serpentinas," until he arrived at his residence, before which had congregated a multitude, in the hope that he would give them some word.

In the course of his remarks he said: "I am sure that in a very short time—in a few months—we shall have an effective peace. Then everybody, Mexicans and foreigners, will enjoy the liberties and the gaurantees they deserve.

"I am sure that the Constitutional Convention that meets here will know how to terminate the work of the revolution and maintain the position necessary for knowing how to make the integrity of the national soil respected. The economic problem that has upset the country is on the point of being solved. I have interested myself greatly to satisfy the wants of the people, and although we have had to fight against difficulties to make our money circulate, we have passed through all in order to maintain the liberties of of the people even at great sacrifices. I have faith in the country."

Officially welcoming him, Governor Montes remarked:

"In former times the entry of leaders of the Liberal Party was received with closed doors. Nobody even had the curiosity to peep out to see them pass. Then the heads of the Clerical Party were cordially received, flowers were strewn in their path and the houses were decorated. But now the revolution has won the hearts of the people, who have assembled in multitudes to welcome the Constitutionalists because new ideas have been accepted and have taken root in their minds."

Everything was conducted in the most perfect order, without any diminishing of the enthusiasm or suppressing of the acclamations called out to the First Chief and to the Revolution. In the many speeches here and there, he was referred to as the "greatest liberal of the Revolution."

On reaching his residence, Señor Carranza was at once surrounded by his family, who had not seen him for more than a month.

Amidst interviews, audiences, receptions and the many social demands of the occasion, Señor Carranza still found time to put the finishing touches on his report with recommendations to be presented to the Constituent Congress.

The First Chief Outlines the Proposed Reforms

AT the session of the Congress held on December 1st, First Chief Carranza outlined the various proposed reforms and amendments to the Constitution as follows:—

"I come to deliver into your hands reforms necessary for this country. Right must regulate all elements of society. The constitution of 1857 was the result of a great upheaval, but it proclaimed only the general principles of reform, without putting them into practical form, so that they are of only nominal value, and it is not possible to administer the government with this constitution. The history of the country gave ample data to demonstrate this.

INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

"What is desired first of all is to establish the rights of the people to individual liberty. Human liberty must be guaranteed to prevent the Government from taking advantage of the excuse of maintaining peace in order to commit crimes.

"The old constitution was not strong enough to do this, as the liberty of the individual was at the mercy of executives. I hope the new constitution will provide severe penalties for wrongdoing on the part of public officials and make them responsible for their acts.

"Judges, heretofore only the tools of the governors, should have the power to investigate and punish wrong-doing of governors. Guarantees for prisoners accused of crimes heretofore have been worthless. Prisoners have been at the mercy of judges and third-degree methods. They should be allowed bonds and a limit should be fixed to the time trials may be delayed.

"Good lawyers should be provided for the indigent, and no arrests should be made without evidence sufficient to justify them.

"Article 27 of the Constitution of 1857 gives authority to take possession of the property of persons whenever public welfare may so require it. This power is, according to the Government in my charge, sufficient to acquire lands and distribute them in the form that may be deemed convenient among the people who wish to devote themselves to agricultural pursuits, thus founding the small properties that should be developed in the measure that public necessity may require.

"The only reform that is proposed by virtue of this article is that the declaration of necessity shall be made by the proper administrative authority, the power left to the judicial authority only being the fixing of the just value of the property in regard to which expropriation is being considered. The article in question, besides leaving in force the laws of reform in regard to the capacity of civil and ecclesiastical corporations to acquire real estate, establishes also the incapacity of civil and commercial corporations or associations to possess and administer real estate, excepting from that incapacity public beneficent institutions, depriving them only from holding real estate more than is strictly indispensable and which is dedicated to the immediate and direct object of said institutions. The necessity of this form is evident in itself, for no one is ignorant of the fact that the clergy, incapacitated from acquiring real estate, has evaded the prohibition of the law by acting under cover of anonymous societies, and as, on their part, these societies have undertaken in the Republic the enterprise of acquiring great tracts of land, it becomes necessary to invoke a prompt and efficacious corrective to this evil, because otherwise it would not take long for the national territory to go into the hands of foreigners, either in fact, or in a fictitious manner.

"On the other hand, you are asked as to the necessity of requiring all foreigners, upon acquiring real estate in the country, to expressly renounce their nationality with relation to said real estate (property), submitting themselves, in a manner complete and absolute, to the Mexican laws, a thing that would not be easy with respect to societies, which, on their part, constitute, as before indicated, a serious menace of monopolization of the territorial property of the Republic.

"Finally, the article in question establishes the express prohibition that private beneficent institutions be in charge of religious corporations and ministers of the cult, for otherwise the doors of abuse would be open anew. These reforms to Article 27 are recommended for consideration, to the end that Article 27 may efficaciously combat monopolies, and assure free competition, which is indispensable to insure life and the development of the people, and with the power that in the reform of clause 20 of Article 72 is conferred to issue laws on labor, in which there shall be included all institutions of social progress in favor of the working class and of all laborers, with the limitation of the number of hours of labor, so that the workman may not exhaust his energies, and may really have time for rest and comfort and for attending to the cultivation of the spirit, and in order that he may frequent the society of his neighbors, which engenders sympathy and determines habits of co-operation for the benefit of the common work; in the responsibilities of the employers in cases of accident, with insurance for cases of sickness and old age; with the fixing of the minimum salary sufficient to supply the prime necessities of the individual and of his family and for insuring and improving his situation; the law of divorce that has been enthusiastically indorsed by divers social classes as a medium of founding the family on unions of love, and not on the fragile bases of interest and the convenience of money.

"On defending the forms of Article 35 and 36 of the Constitution of 1857, the ancient and very much debated question was presented as to whether the active vote should be granted to all citizens, without any exception whatsoever, or whether, on the contrary, it should be granted only to those who are fitted for voting efficaciously and for enlightenment, or for their economical situation which would give them greater interest in the matters of public concern.

"In order that the exercise of the right of suffrage be a positive and true manifestion of the national sovereignty, it is indispensable that it be general, equal to all, free and direct, because, any of these conditions being lacking, it is converted into a prerogative of class, or is a mere artifice to conceal usurpations of power, or gives governing entities usurpations against the clear and manifest will of the people.

"From this it may be deduced that the suffrage being an essentially collective function, since it is an indispensable condition to retain the exercise of sovereignty, it must be an attribute of all the members of the social body who may comprehend the interests and the value of that very high function.

"This would authorize us to conclude that the electoral right alone should be granted to those individuals who may have full conciousness of the high ends towards which it is aimed, which would exclude, therefore, those who, by their ignorance, their carelessness or their indifference, are incapable of duly discharging that duty; answering in a spontaneous and efficacious manner to the government of the people by the people. In spite of this, and, not failing to recognize that what has just been said is a theoretical truth, there are in the case of Mexico historical factors or antecedents which compel the acceptance of a solution distinct from that logically deduced from the principles of political science.

"Public instruction must receive attention, because knowledge insures against either anarchy or dictatorship. On the organization of the executive power will depend that the legislative branch shall not become an instrument of the executive. Free discussion without following instructions of the executive or of governors must be assured the legislatures, but they must not be given sufficient power to curb the executive in proper execution of his rights.

"Parliamentary regime in which the executive is a figurehead and the cabinet is selected by congress is not good for Latin American nations. The people still need a strong government, which is not the same as a despotic government.

Direct election of the President will give strength to the government and the nation, and the President will not be at the mercy of the legislative power. The best argument against a parliamentary regime is the object lesson furnished by the United States.

"I advocate the elimination of the office of Vice President, providing that the succession to the presidency in the event of temporary or permanent absence shall be decided by Congress.

"There should be absolute independence of the judicial power.

"I promise to conserve the liberal spirit of the old constitution, so that the new reforms will merely eliminate the dead wood, throw light on obscure articles and strike out articles put in by former governments for personal advantage. The constitution must not erect artificial barriers between the state and the individual, and the power given must not be greater than that of the people who establish it."

Among the many important matters to be discussed is that of the abolition of the Vice Presidency, which is regarded as the main cause of many revolutions that have disturbed this country. There will be abolished also the Departments of Justice and Public Instruction, as they are considered useless and contrary to the spirit of Democratic principles. All matters relating to the Department of Justice are to be administered by the Supreme Court, and to the National University will be intrusted public instruction.

The organization of the Supreme Court will be subjected to important changes, the Judges being appointed by the Executive with the approval of Congress, as in the United States, and not by popular vote as heretofore. The Supreme Court will have absolute freedom. Under the new plan no person is to be imprisoned until he has been declared guilty by a jury.

With suppression of the Departments of Justice and Public Instruction, the Cabinet will be composed of only the following portfolios: Foreign Relations, Interior Communications, Fomento, Finance, and War and Navy.

One of the notable reforms upon which the Chief insists is an independent form of government for municipalities. He also emphasizes his desire for universal suffrage, even among the illiterate, in conformity with his frequently expressed determination that every Mexican of legal age should be given the ballot.

The laws affecting foreigners in Mexico also will be materially changed. Full protection and ample guarantees will be accorded to all foreigners coming to Mexico, but in no case will they have any rights which Mexicans do not enjoy.

It is believed that the consideration of the proposed constitutional reforms will occupy the Congress for about a month and will not be completed until about the close of the year. Then it is expected that the Congress will issue a call for Presidential elections and the elections probably will be set for some time in January.

Among other matters that will be brought before the Congress is that of a divorce law. Samuel Belden, of San Antonio, Texas, who has been legal adviser of the Constitutionalist Government from the inception of the movement, has at the request of the First Chief, prepared a

Sanitary and Educational Problems

Commissioner Pani Tells How the Constitutionalist Government Has Handled These Matters

ING. A. J. PANI, one of the Mexican Commissioners to the Atlantic City conference, and also Managing Director of the Constitutionalist railways of Mexico, delivered the following interesting address at a recent meeting in Philadelphia of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and the Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Society:

"*Mr. Chairman—Ladies and Gentlemen:*

"During the most acute and violent period of an armed revolution—a veritable chaos in which it would seem that the people, after destroying everything try to commit suicide in a body — the news of isolated cases, however horrible they may be, ceases to cause a deep impression before the awfulness of the general catastrophe. As the struggle reaches some form of organization by the grouping of men around the various nuclei representing the antagonistic principles in action, individuals grow in importance until the nucleus which best interpreted the ambitions and wants of the people acquires absolute ascendancy. Then, this group is unreasonably expected to strictly fulfill all the obligations usually incumbent upon a Government duly constituted. The sensation then provoked by the news of isolated cases of misfortunes suffered by individuals, because of their very rarity, causes greater consternation.

"This is precisely what is occurring with the present Mexican Government. Take any two dates from the beginning of its organization. Compare dispassionately the relative conditions of natural life, and it will be necessary to admit that the country is rapidly returning to normal political and social conditions. It is also undeniable that the temporary interruption of a line of communication, or the attack on a train or village by rebels or outlaws, now causes an exaggerated impression, people forgetting that, not so long ago, the greater part of the railway lines or the cities of the Republic were in the hands of said rebels or outlaws, and that in the very territory dominated by the Constitutionalist Government, trains and towns were but too frequently assaulted.

"But it is inconceivable to try to make the present Government responsible for the transgressions of its predecessors. The revolution itself is a natural consequence of these faults. Former Governments who knew not how to prevent the Revolution are responsible for the evils which it may have brought in its train, and should the nation be saved, as it shall be, it will be due solely to the citizens who have been willing to sacrifice themselves. In truth it is only through personal sacrifices that it is possible to construct a true fatherland.

ALBERTO J. PANI

"The enemies of the new regime — irreconcilable because they will not accept the sacrifices imposed — are now burning their last cartridges, making the Constitutionalist Government responsible for many of the calamities which caused the Revolution, and which the Government, impelled by the generous impulse which generated it, purposes to remedy. Thus do we explain the protests of the discontented, and the monstrosity that said protests are even more energetic and loud when they defend money than when they defend life itself.

"The theme of this night's address refers to one of these calamities, a shameful legacy of the past. Inimical interests are trying to attack the Constitutionalist Government on this score, though it is the first Government in Mexico which has tried to remedy this evil. Having been appointed by the First Chief in charge of the Executive Power of Mexico, Mr. Carranza, to make the study of the problem, I would only have to summarize or copy, in order to develope such theme, some fragments of the corresponding reports.

"One of the most imperative obligations that civilization imposes upon the State is to duly protect human life, to permit the growth of society. It becomes necessary to make known the precepts of private hygiene and to put them in practice, and to enforce the precepts of public hygiene. For the first, there is the school as an excellent organ of propaganda. For the second, with more direct bearing on healthfulness, there are principally special establishments to heal, to disinfect, to take prophylactic measures. Then there are engineering works, laws and regulations put in force by a technical personnel, or by an administrative or police corps. *It may therefore be said without exaggeration, that there is a necessary relation of direct proportion between the sum of civilization acquired by a country, and the degree of perfection attained by its sanitary organization.*

"The activities, in this respect, of General Diaz's Government, during the thirty odd years of enforced peace and of apparent material well-being, were devoted almost exclusively to works to gratify the love of ostentation or speculation. Seldom were they devoted to the true needs of the country. There were erected magnificent buildings. To build the National Theatre and Capitol, both unfinished, it was planned to spend sixty millions of pesos. When it was a case of executing works of public utility, their construction was made subservient to the illicit ends pointed out. Thus for example the works of city improvement, never finished, not even in the capital, in spite of the conditions of notorious unhealthfulness of some important towns, were always begun with elegant and costly asphalt pavements, which it became necessary to destroy and replace whenever a water or drainage pipe had to be laid. The work of education undertaken by the Government was chiefly dedicated to erecting costly buildings for schools; it is only in this way, therefore, that we can realize that the proportion of persons knowing how to read and write is barely thirty per cent of the total population in the Republic.

"The net result of what was done in these respects during the long administration of General Diaz could not be more disastrous. If we take the average of mortality for the nine years from 1904 to 1912, the heyday of that administration, we find that in Mexico City, where the greatest sum of culture and material progress is to be found, there is *a rate of mortality of 42.3 deaths for each one thousand inhabitants. That is to say:*

"*I. It is nearly three times that prevailing in American cities of similar density (16.1);*

"*II. Nearly two and one half times larger than the average coefficient of mortality of comparable European cities (17.53), and*

"*III. Greater than the coefficient of mortality of the Asiatic and African cities of Madras and Cairo (39.51 and 40.15, respectively), in spite of the fact that in the former, cholera morbus is endemic.*

(Concluded on page 15)

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digest of the laws upon this subject now in force in New York, Illinois, Texas and the District of Columbia, and from it a law will be drafted and submitted.

The opening session of the Congress was held in the Iturbide Theatre, but in the meantime, that building not being of sufficient size to accommodate the delegates and the public, the structure of the Academy of San Fernando was prepared for the accommodation of the sessions. This building was erected in 1804 by the liberality of a prominent citizen of Queretaro for the education of children.

In 1848 the Congress of the Republic met in this structure under the Presidency of Manuel Peña and here discussed the treaty of peace between the United States and Mexico. On May 30, 1848, in the salon where Congress held its sessions, Minister of Foreign Relations Luis de la Rosa signed the treaty that had been prepared by the commission of which Nathan Clifford and Ambrose H. Servier were the American representatives.

The structure is a very handsome one, its paintings and decorations are said to be especially artistic, and it is considered that in all respects, besides its size, it is a suitable place wherein to hold the sessions of a body which is to take such a prominent place in Mexican history.

When the permanent organization of the Congress was effected, Sr. Luis Manuel Rojas was elected President, and General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Relations, Vice-President.

ENGINEER PASTOR ROUAIX

A Prominent Exemplar of the Young Revolutionary Leaders Who Are Redeeming Mexico

ENGINEER PASTOR ROUAIX, now Secretary of Fomento, Colonization and Industry, of the Cabinet of First Chief Venustiano Carranza, was born at the city of Tehuacán, State of Puebla, where his early education was completed. In 1888 he went to the Capital of the Republic, to commence his preparatory and professional studies.

While a student of the Preparatory School in 1892, he, with Doctor Luís Cabrera and several other fellow-students, took part in the student anti-reelection parades of protest.

Señor Rouaix graduated in the year 1898, with the title of civil engineer, and went to the State of Durango, where he remained, practicing his profession, accepting no employment from the Porfirista Government. His revolutionary ideas were so well known that upon the triumph, in 1911, of the revolution headed by Francisco Madero, he was appointed *Jefe Politico* of the City of Durango, a post that he filled for six months. Before receiving this appointment he organized the Democratic party in that State, of which he became President, and after his six months' office had expired, he gave new impulse to that political party in the struggle for the first magistracy of the State, taking an active part in the elections, and accomplishing the triumph of the candidacy for which he was working —a triumph which elected Engineer Don Carlos Patoni as Governor.

His efforts in favor of liberty and for the fulfilment of the ideals of the people made him very well known throughout the State, and in 1912 he was elected Deputy to the State Congress. Here he took the initiative in several important matters, and was at two periods President of the House.

In 1913, upon the breaking out of the Huerta revolution, Engineer Rouaix was again designated *Jefe Politico* of the City. The Government of Durango wished to recognize the Maderista movement, and this was the reason for his reappointment; but upon the treason of the Federal army becoming known, he immediately presented his resignation. He had held the office for three days, and had improved this brief space of time protecting and aiding the Maderistas, especially those of the army, in order that they might be able to leave the city. Upon resigning the post as *Jefe Politico* he returned to the Congress. It must be observed that the Government of Durango never officially recognized Victoriano Huerta. In the State Congress only three Deputies remained firm, and one of these, because of belonging to the army, was obliged to leave the city in haste, leaving the other two, Engineer Pastor Rouaix and Antonio Laveaga, to face the other Deputies.

During this time, Engineer Rouaix had been actively and incessantly working in favor of the revolution, a course that made him both notable and popular. He suffered many persecutions, and several times was obliged to retire into hiding. On the 18th of June, 1913, the city of Durango was taken by the first considerable forces of organized Constitutionalism in the Republic. The Chiefs who took the place convened for an election of Governor from four candidates, and Señor Engineer Rouaix was the one selected. He took charge of his post on the 4th of July of the same year, and remained in charge up to the 10th of August, 1914.

During this period important laws were passed, such as the agrarian law, the law to return "community lands," the law of expropriation for public uses, of expenses, of agricultural colonies, etc.; the decree for the adjudication of the properties of the clergy, which had a value of nearly one million pesos; the law creating the Board (la Dirección) of Agriculture; laws in regard to haciendas of much importance; the decree creating the section of finance for assisting agriculturists and miners, and the founding of new towns in the State. When Engineer Rouaix took charge of the Government there was in the exchequer only $30,000; it was in a deplorable state, and his first efforts were directed to the betterment of those financial conditions. When, in August, 1914, he left the Government, not only were there no debts, but there existed a considerable surplus. It should be noted here, that although a money issue was made by authorization of the First Chieftaincy, these moneys were not employed in any manner other than for payment of the Constitutionalist forces, and thus were not used towards the expenses of the State. For defraying these expenses an issue of bonds was made, with the guarantee of the residuum of taxes, and in such form that neither the Government nor the State had any other concern with that issue.

PASTOR ROUAIX

In August, 1914, Engineer Roauix was called by the First Chief to take charge of the Department of Fomento in the character of Chief Clerk, and on the first of January, 1915, he was promoted to the position of Assistant Secretary. His work in the Department of Fomento was both broad and active, and he gave attention to many very interesting branches of the public wealth of Mexico—branches which were in a state of abandonment by the dictatorships, such as the petroleum, agriculture, and various other branches.

Among other things he created, while in this Department, the Technical Commission of Petroleum, which has rendered much service to that branch. He also founded the Agricultural National Commission, which has charge of the most important agrarian questions—one of the objects of the revolution inaugurated by the First Chief.

Later, he dedicated his powers and attention, in the service of that department, to works of irrigation of extensive and imperious necessity for the agriculture of the Republic, and in conformity with such purpose, he established a department that has a personnel sufficient to carry that work to a conclusion. The department of Fomento has suffered truly radical changes in its organization, and all old forms have been broken, thus making the dispatch of matters therein transacted more efficacious and harmonious for better results.

Finally, the First Chief, in view of the impulse given to the Department of Fomento and of the important efforts therein of Engineer Rouaix, on the first of September, 1916, raised him to the position of Secretary of this branch of the Government, which he now holds.

MINING DECREE IS MODIFIED

Owners Have Until Feburary 14, 1917, in Which to Resume Operations Unless There Are Insuperable Obstacles

THE Department of Fomento has issued a circular from its Divisions of Mines and Petroleum, which has been communicated by telegraph to all Governors of States and the heads of Territories, the tenor of which is as follows:

"The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in Charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, taking into consideration that up to date it has not been possible to complete the necessary data relative to the local conditions of each mining zone, indispensable in order that the Department of Fomento may act with full justification in applying the decree of the 14th of September last, which provides that the paralyzation of mining works will only be permitted to continue when the cause which may endanger the concessionaire shall be just and plainly proved, in the judgment of said Department, has decreed:

"I.—The causes which may have endangered the concessionaires and prevented the resuming of their labors, will be considered as proved, and therefore, in accordance with Article 2d of the referred to Decree, they shall enjoy a term that shall not exeeed three months during which to put their lands in a state of exploitation.

"II.—Only when the interested party can prove that a cause exists which may make the exploitation of the mine wholly impossible, can the term as fixed in the former article be extended, and only for the time which might be strictly necessary.

"III.—The concessionaires of mines who, by the 14th of February, 1917, have not put their lands to work, or have not been able to prove the reason for the need of a continuation of the suspension thereof, will lose all their rights, and the forfeiture of the lands which were paralyzed shall be declared, in conformity with Article 1st of the above Decree."

MAJOR Romualdo Zamacona, a former employe of the National railways, has perfected a device by which a train running at a speed of eighty kilometers an hour automatically halts within a distance of fifty meters — or a little over 150 feet. American railway men have become interested and the inventor is going to the United States in response to their invitation.

KEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT

Documentary Evidence Regarding the Manner in Which the Constitutionalist Movement Began — Irrefragable Proof.

SOME time since Ex-Secretary of State Knox made a public speech which caused great surprise in Mexico because of the assertions made by him concerning the inception of the Constitutionalist movement. While it is not to be wondered at that the average newspaper reader should be misled with regard to many of the facts connected with the Huerta treason and with the assasstinaion of the President and Vice-President, great surprise was expressed that a man with the official standing of Mr. Knox at the time of the revolution, and his unquestionable great intelligence and wide range of information, should betray such gross ignorance of the events of the infamous "*Decena Tragica*" or treason of Huerta and his associates.

Two principal points stand out clear above the mass of error in Mr. Knox's address:

First—That Huerta did not owe his possession of the Presidency to the assassination of Madero.

Second—That Carranza had "officially informed this (the American government) of his adherence to the new (Huerta) government."

Mr. Knox recited the undisputed facts that Madero resigned on February 19, 1913, but he deftly conceals the fact that that resignation was obtained by force and threat exercised by Huerta's tools as part of the plot which culminated in assassination—assassination which so far as the President and Vice-President were concerned was determined in advance of the resignation.

The charge is borne out by all the concomitant facts. While it is true that three days elapsed between the forcible seizure of the Presidency by Huerta and the murder of Madero, it is nevertheless perfectly apparent, and always has been, that each event was a portion of the original plot, and it is impossible to dissociate one portion of that plot from another portion.

The assassinations of Madero and Suarez would never have taken place unless Huerta had given his consent, even though he may not have given the order for the double murder. That Madero was to be "done away with" was acknowledged by at least one of those who was concerned in the plot, and it is an insult to common sense to endeavor to maintain at this late day, in the face of all the evidence, that the assassination of the President and Vice-President was not an important and integral portion of the whole dastardly treason.

Regarding the statement that Governor Carranza had informed the American government that he had recognized the Huerta usurpation, it is only necessary to follow Mr. Knox's example and quote the record. Here are the facts:

On the 18th of February, 1916, as Mr. Knox states, the government of Madero was indeed overthrown. The same day the following telegram was sent to Governor Carranza of the State of Coahuila:

> "Mexico City, February 28, 1913.
> "Don Venustiano Carranza, Governor of the State of Coahuila:
> "The President and Vice-President of the Republic being prisoners, I have to-day assumed charge of the Executive Power of the nation. Wire me immediately if you as State Governor recognize the new order of things.
> (Signed) VICTORIANO HUERTA."

Mr. Knox did not call attention to the fact that Huerta himself had acknowledged seizing the Executive Power before Madero resigned.

Felix Diaz also wired Governor Carranza on the same day:

> "Mexico City, February 18, 1913.
> "Don Venustiano Carranza, Governor of the State of Coahuila:
> "Mr. Victoriano Huerta, President of the Republic, appointed by the Senate, has wired you notifying his exaltation to the Executive Power. Wire me immediately if you recognize him as such, which I hope you will do for the sake of the country. (Signed) FELIX DIAZ."

The reply given to these messages by Governor Carranza was the immediate summoning of the Congress of the State of Coahuila in special session on the day following. That Congress without hesitation, on the 19th day of February, unanimously adopted an act refusing to recognize the usurper Huerta and instructing Carranza to take the field in armed opposition to the traitor. At the same time and as a result of the Coahuila Congress' action, which it need not be said was strictly in accordance with the Governor's wishes, Carranza addressed the following note to the Governors of all the States in the Republic:

> "Saltillo, February 19, 1913.
> "Victoriano Huerta having betrayed the Constitutional Government of the Republic and having arrested the President and Vice-President and the Cabinet, I hereby protest and invite you to fight and overthrow the so-called new government emanating from the most treacherous and cowardly act registered in Mexican history.
> (Signed) V. CARRANZA."

Finding that all efforts to induce Governor Carranza to recognize the usurpation were unavailing, another attempt, this time deliberate bribery, was made, as shown by the following letter sent the stanch old Coahuilense by special messenger from Mexico City from the hands of the two arch traitors—Huerta and Diaz themselves:

> "Mexico, February 27, 1913.
> "Don Venustiano Carranza, Governor of the Free and Sovereign State of Coahuila:
> "Dear Sir—By letters of recent date we have informed you of the plausible reasons which have inspired the army against the dissolving regime of Don Francisco Madero and have likewise justified the acts which placed General Huerta in the office of President of the Republic.
> "We have been informed that it is your intention to rebel against the legal authority of the Government. We beg to insist in the name of the country and for its exclusive benefit that you change your announced attitude of not collaborating with us in the work of peace, which we intend to pursue to the end at any price. If for some personal reason you wish to leave the office which you occupy, and if that can be done without offending or hurting our patriotic end, the Government will give you all kinds of guarantees and will pay your salary up to the end of the term.
> "This letter, as you understand, must be absolutely of a private and particular character. On this basis, we beg to inform you that on our part there will be no obstacles that could arise between ourselves which cannot be solved in a manner most suitable to you. It would be advisable for you to retire to the United States for your greater safety. We shall make all sorts of sacrifices, if you should demand them, so as to satisfy your wishes and demands. Our envoy will bring you instructions on this subject. He is empowered to arrange matters on the spot.
> "We beg you to accept our assurances of admiration and respect.
> (Signed) VICTORIANO HUERTA.
> FELIX DIAZ.

Governor Carranza's answer was prompt and unequivocal and left no doubt in the minds of the conspirators as to his attitude regarding them and their treachery. It was as follows—being dated several days after that of the letter, as it required a long journey for the emissary of the conspirators to reach him:

> "Saltillo, Coahuila, March —, 1913.
> "Messrs. V. Huerta and Felix Diaz:
> "My only answer to the despicable offer to me in your letter dated February 27th is that I wish to inform you that men like myself do not betray, do not sell themselves. That is your function—you who have no other objects in life than the shameful satisfaction of ignoble ambitions.
> "Raise the black flag of your tyranny and over the country the voice shouts: Treason and death!
> "On my part, with the help of the Mexican people, I shall lift from the mud into which you have thrown it, the flag of the country. Should I fall defending it, I shall have obtained for my small action in life the greatest reward which an innocent man can aspire to.
> (Signed) V. CARRANZA."

Following is substantially the telegram sent by Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson to Consul Silliman, and which aroused the indignation of Governor Carranza when presented to him:

> "Mexico City, February —, 1913.
> "American Consul, Saltillo, Mexico:
> "Call on Governor Carranza at once and caution him that he is in open rebellion against a duly constituted, legal government, strongly intrenched in the confidence of the Mexican people, and that his downfall and defeat are inevitable. Put this to him strongly and as a solemn warning. HENRY LANE WILSON."

Diligent search through this record fails to disclose any foundation even by implication for the charge of Mr. Knox that Governor Carranza had ever recognized the Huerta usurpation or had even contemplated such an act.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Coahuila Congress, Carranza took the field, and beginning with a handful of less than one hundred men, in eighteen months he had vanquished the forces of the murderous conspirators, driven them from the country and marched in triumph into Mexico City.

Of similar character to the foregoing is the charge that has been made without shadow of proof that Governor Carranza had rebelled or was on the point of rebelling against President Madero just prior to the decena tragica, or treason of Huerta. It is true, Governor Carranza with most of the rest of the friends of Madero had been grieved at the manner in which he was being misled by many of those whom he trusted, and at his failure to heed the warnings given him by the Governor of Coahuila and others. But that there was any such thing as rebellion contemplated by Governor Carranza against the President is a baseless and cruel slander. Foreigners who were resident in Coahuila at the time, of whom the writer was one, know full well the baseless character of this scandalous charge, which was not advanced until it became apparent that the Constitutionalist cause was on the verge of triumph, and then only as a last resort to cast discredit upon the revolutionary leader. No one with the slightest knowledge of the character of the First Chief gives any credence to this slander.

THE principal oil companies in the Tampico district have joined forces with the authorities in regulating sanitary conditions and great benefit has resulted therefrom.

IN the name of thirty thousand organized workmen of the State of Jalisco, telegrams have been sent to the First Chief pledging their support to his candidacy for the office of President of the Republic. Similar action has been taken by the organized workmen in many other States.

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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NOTE AND COMMENT

IT is interesting to note that a Mexico City newspaper came the nearest to giving the actual result of the Presidential election in the United States on the morning after the event of any of its American contemporaries. It declared with great positiveness that there was every reason to believe President Wilson had been re-elected.

THE REVIEW calls attention to the brief news notes published elsewhere, translated and condensed from the Mexican press. These notes are unvarnished statements of fact and afford a powerful commentary upon the accuracy of much of the "information" regarding the country that is being disseminated by those with ulterior motives.

THE REVIEW is in a position to declare, upon very best authority, that the published rumors regarding any difference of opinion or dispute among the Mexican delegates to the Atlantic City conference had no foundation other than in the imaginations of those who gave them circulation. Those who are acquainted with the commissioners need no assurance of this character, and THE REVIEW only alludes to the matter for the benefit of those who have not that acquaintance.

UNDER the auspices of the various State Governments, and sanctioned by the First Chief, workingmen's congresses are being organized in various portions of the Republic. These bodies are authorized to discuss various measures for the advancement of the working people, draw up laws, and commend them to the authorities for adoption. In one State at least—Sonora—the members of the workingmen's congress are paid by the Government for devoting their time to this object. So far these new bodies have shown themselves earnest and intelligent in the discussion of the questions that have come before them.

OF all those who have written about Mexico, Lincoln Steffens comes nearer to telling the truth and to having an exact conception of the situation than any of his fellow-authors. His article "Making Friends With Mexico," published in Collier's of November 25th, is an example in point. Mr. Steffens has made a personal study on the ground, has viewed all angles of the situation, has listened to both sides, has talked with rabid interventionists and their opponents, and has shown rare wisdom in sifting the true from the false, in getting at real motives, and in reaching correct conclusions and clothing them in convincing language. If more writers had followed the same course as that of Mr. Steffens, the world would have had a better knowledge of the Mexican problem, and incidentally many periodicals would have been saved from exhibiting their ignorance and prejudice.

THE First Chief made the journey from Mexico City to Querétaro, prior to the opening of the Constituent Congress, on horseback. It is a distance of upward of 150 miles. This calls to mind two other notable equestrian trips of the leader. In 1913 he journeyed from Piedras Negras, in Coahuila, to Hermosillo, capital of the State of Sonora, a total by road and trail of fully two thousand miles, covering the distance on horseback and arriving after his two months' journey in the pink of condition. Not long after this notable feat a couple of writers solemnly declared, after an interview of fully twenty minutes' duration, that the Chief was a broken down, decrepit old man, a wreck both physically and mentally. Within a month after that was published he journeyed on horseback from Nogales, to Juarez, a distance of several hundred miles, and now he takes a trifling ride of a hundred and fifty miles more. Pretty well for a "physical wreck."

GOVERNMENT officials have been investigating the mining situation in the State of Guanajuato, with a view of ascertaining what obstacles were preventing the operation of various properties and if possible of removing those obstacles. They found many mine owners who were not operating their works, alleging certain reasons therefor, such as lack of supplies, etc. They found other owners who were operating their properties to apparent advantage, although having exactly the same conditions to contend with as those who were idle. It was shown to be within the power of the latter to combat and remove the alleged obstacles, as it was within the power of the former to do so. Singularly enough, so the report says, those who alleged insuperable difficulties and had closed down their works were all foreigners. Those who had not met any such difficulty and whose works were in full operation were all Mexicans. The reader is left to supply his own comment on this somewhat interesting state of facts.

IT is interesting to note that it is proposed to do in the United States exactly what it has been found necessary to do in Mexico in order to curb the rapacity of dealers in the necessaries of life and prevent the hoarding of vast quantities of such articles in order to force prices to the highest point. The authorities are discussing the best means in order to force the sale of such hoards at moderate prices. The example of Mexico may yet be followed. It will be remembered that shortly after the occupation of Mexico City by General Gonzales in July, 1915, a similar condition existed. Thereupon the authorities summoned the leading dealers, had them produce their accounts showing the actual cost of the various supplies, and then issued a price list above which no one could charge. This price list avowedly allowed wholesalers to realize twenty per cent profit on their transactions, while retailers were permitted to enjoy a profit of twenty-five per cent. By this means the people were enabled to obtain food at moderate prices, while the dealers had no righteous cause for complaint. At the same time no one was permitted to store large quantities of food without offering it for sale.

The Mexican Middle Class

ONE of the erroneous assertions regarding Mexico that is frequently encountered is that that country "has no middle class." This has been repeated so often without denial that doubtless the great majority of those why have no personal acquaintance with the countro give it full credence. But a few moments' examination will demonstrate the incorrectness of the idea.

In one recent instance an individual who claimed to have lived in Mexico many years declared that there were only seven thousand landowners in the country and that it "had no middle class." The fair presumption from this is that it was meant to declare that there are seven thousand aristocrats in the country and that all the rest of the fifteen or sixteen million people are members of the peon class, which it is true predominates. Writers and speakers who deal loosely with the country and do not take the trouble to verify what they believe to be their facts, are very fond of making this unqualified assertion, going so far as to declare with great positiveness that there are just two classes and no more in the Republic. Yet as a matter of fact this idea has little basis in real conditions.

It is true there is an aristocratic class, but comparatively speaking it is limited in its extent. There is also a peon class, which it is true comprises a very large portion of the population. But between these is the great middle class— the clerks, the employes of all kinds who labor with both brain and hand, the professional men, the rank and file of the government employes, the teachers, the shop-keepers, the proprietary miners and farmers, business men of a thousand different branches, mechanics of all sorts, who most energetically and properly resent being classed with the peones, just as they make no pretensions to membership in the upper class. "I am not a peon—I am a mechanic," is an assertion frequently heard, and it is uttered with all the pride of a member of a class higher than the despised one.

If, then, men who labor with their brains or their hands, or both, who have neither the birth nor the means to essay aristocratic pretensions, do not constitute a middle class, words have lost their meaning.

THE REVIEW is of the opinion that it is high time this fallacy were dispelled. No one who has ever visited Mexico with eyes open, and most of all no one who has ever lived there, has any excuse for perpetuating this error. A moment's thought, a moment's recollection or inquiry regarding the vast industrial system conducted by men who certainly do not belong to the aristocracy any more than they do to the peon class, must convince any intelligent person that there is a very large and rapidly increasing middle class in Mexico. With very few exceptions, the revolutionary leaders are all middle class men and women.

ONE thousand five hundred women of the State of Coahuila who are actively interested in carrying out the revolutionary reforms have indorsed the candidacy of Señor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles as Governor of that State in the coming elections. He was appointed Governor by the First Chief and under his direction many reforms have been instituted, notably of an educational character.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

THE First Chief has issued a strict decree forbidding the establishment by any one of wireless telegraph stations in any portion of the Republic without previous authorization by the Government.

SCHOOLS of instruction in military drill will be opened for the benefit of workingmen on Sundays in various portions of the capital city in order that they may be taught the rudiments of warfare.

A SERIES of teachers' institutes has been inaugurated in the State of Tamaulipas for the purpose of bringing the educational system up to the highest standard. Great interest is taken in this feature.

PERMISSION has been granted to the Aguila Petroleum Company (the Pierson interests) to construct a wharf on the Panuco river in the Tampico district for the accommodation of their export traffic.

THE authorities of the State of Nuevo Leon are taking steps to establish an equitable and just tariff of charges for public services of all kinds, including the telephone, steet cars, electric and gas lights, etc.

THE Government of the State of Tabasco has appointed an educational commission which has taken in charge the work of establishing schools throughout the entire State with the view of educating all ranks of society.

ALL mines owned by Mexicans in the State of Guanajuato are now in full operation. Those that are not being worked are the property of foreigners, although some of the foreign owned properties are now active.

WITH the cooperation of the State Government, machinery has arrived in Yucatan and will be at once devoted to the sinking of wells for the development of the petroleum measures of that region, which are known to exist.

THE customs collections at the port of Vera Cruz for the month of October approximated very nearly one million dollars in national specie, showing a steady ratio of appreciation and an early return to the income of normal conditions.

THE Government has established numerous stations in the city of Mexico for the sale of food articles of prime necessity at moderate prices. The business transacted is very large and the common people have been greatly aided thereby.

THE mines of "El Triunfo," in Lower California, having been abandoned by their former operators, have been taken over and are now being operated by the Government, giving employment to a large number of men who would otherwise be destitute.

A STEAMER service is to be inaugurated shortly connecting New York, Havana and Progreso with Manzanillo, in Colima, via the Panama Canal. It is believed this will greatly stimulate commerce between the west coast of Mexico and Atlantic ports.

DURING the month of October there were recorded in the Public Registry of Property of Mexico City rental contracts to the amount of $17,045,562.80. In the same period the record of new commercial operations registered reached a total of $4,822,906.

AN invitation has been received and will probably be accepted by the First Chief to participate in an exposition of products of the Latin-American countries that is shortly to be opened in New Orleans. A similar exhibition was recently held at El Paso.

THE workers in an extensive cotton factory at Querétaro, as also those in a similar establishment in Jalisco, have struck for an alleviation of conditions, and the State government is arranging an amicable settlement, as has been done in similar cases elsewhere.

ARRANGEMENTS are being made for the use of henequen fiber in some of the mills in the States of Puebla and Tlaxcala that have heretofore been devoted solely to the production of cotton fabrics. This will greatly stimulate the production of fiber in Yucatan, it is believed.

Luis Manuel Rojas, President of the Constituent Congress

SEÑOR LUIS MANUEL ROJAS, who was chosen as President of the Constituent Congress at Querétaro, is a native of the State of Jalisco, and is one of the intelligent and progressive young men of education with whom the First Chief has surrounded himself, and who have done such good work from the first day of the Revolution in carrying out its ideals. He is the founder of the periodical entitled "Revista de Revistas" of the City of Mexico. He was Deputy to the Congress in the period of President Madero, where he appeared as one of the most prominent of the group of Reformers. He presented before that assembly an important project of law, by which no one in the active military service could vote or be elected to any post by popular election.

During the period of the Huerta régime, he was always among those of the reformers in opposition to the usurper, and he made himself nationally popular by his valor in the accusation made against Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson before the American Government and the public—an accusation that cost him a long imprisonment at the hands of Huerta. He followed the Government of the First Chief to Vera Cruz, and remained with it at that port and later in the City of Mexico, and, with Señors José N. Macias and Engineer Félix F. Palavicini, formed a part of the commission charged with drawing up the decrees of the First Chieftainship that have been issued. He also collaborated in the project of the amended Constitution as presented by Señor Carranza before the Constituent Congress of Querétaro, and his selection to preside over the deliberations of that body is accepted by the public as a fitting acknowledgment of the great services he has rendered to the country.

Mexico's Second Feminine Congress

THE second Woman's Congress ever held in Mexico met November 23d in the City of Merida, capital of the State of Yucatan. The first one in the history of the Republic was held in the same city in January last and was largely attended. It was convened under instructions from Governor Salvador Alvarado, as was the present one. The Governors of all States were requested to name delegates, although distance from centers of population and the absence of railway communication with the other portions of the Republic renders it difficult to secure attendance from other States than Yucatan and Campeche. Nevertheless on the opening day many delegates were present from other sections.

The congress held sessions daily until December 2d, and discussed various questions, educational and intellectual topics being the principal ones dealt with. Al lthe primary and vocational schools in the city of Merida remained closed throughout the sessions of the Congress and it was made a personal obligation for the teachers to attend. The other schools were not included in this provision of the call.

BEGINNING with November 1st and until February 28th the following articles of prime necessity may be imported into Mexico duty free: lard, rice, barley, lentils, beans, peas, garbanzos, habas (a species of horse bean), and all other grains, as also flour made from oats, barley, rye, corn, wheat and sago.

What One American Thinks of Mexico

AN American of long experience in Mexico has written THE REVIEW a letter of commendation upon its attitude regarding that country and its people. He says:

"I wish there were more articles published in the States like your explanation of the "Gringo" and "Greaser." We both know that no decent foreigner who has *lived* in Mexico has anything but kind words for that country and its people, and we can never repay a lot of courtesies that were extended us. That part of the story of Mexico has hardly ever been mentioned. I have never found that hatred of the "Gringo" there. I don't remember ever hearing of an American being "stabbed in the back," and I never owned a gun there. I don't remember whether you locked your door at night, but when I tell people that I never locked a door in Mexico unless it was in a hotel in a city, they are amazed. Of course there are bad men there, and *some* bad foreigners, but did this thought ever strike you? Take the people who left their homes in the east and came west to Texas or California or any of the coast States—did you ever know any who were always filled with a desire to return to the old home town to live? Yet I have never met a man or a woman who had lived in Mexico, but was anxiously waiting to go back, and you know it was not for mercenary reasons alone. We surely would not have this feeling if the people of that country were the kind that is so often misrepresented, mostly by the man who has seen it only from a car window. I remember when Mr. H. and I were the only foreigners in Cuatro Cienegas during the Madero revolution. Martial law was established, all lights had to be extinguished and no one was permitted on the streets after 9:30 p. m. Well, *we* could stay up all night if we cared to, and many a time when we were sitting in the plaza very late at night, the patrol would come along and challenge us, but when they recognized us they excused themselves politely and went on. Can you imagine two Mexicans or any foreigners being treated that way under similar circumstances in the United States? But what is the use of talking this way to you or anyone that has really lived among them? But what makes me mad sometimes is this: That so many people really do not want to believe this side of the Mexican character. They resent the fact that you tell them the things that you *know*. This is one way of trying to repay some of the kindness given us."

SR. ALFONZO SILLER has been installed as Sub-Secretary of the Department of Foreign Relations, and has been placed in full charge of the same during the absence of Secretary Candido Aguilar, who is a delegate to the Constituen Congress now in session at Querétaro, where he will remain until the final adjournment of that body, which must take place within two montht from the time its sessions began, on November 20th.

THE classification of newly established schools in Mexico covers the following: Rural schools, elemental primary schools, upper primary schools, vocational schools for men, vocational schools for women, schools of arts and crafts, normal schools for men, normal schools for women. Thousands of new institutions of these characters have been opened in the Republic sicne the triumph of the Constitutionalist cause.

"The Land of the Afternoon"

A Lotos-Eaters' Paradise in the Valley of Mexico Seldom Enjoyed by Tourists

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

If Tennyson had found it necessary to seek the inspiration of actuality for his incomparable poem "The Lotos-Eaters," or if he had sought verification for what to him was evidently merely a dream, he would have found ample warrant and corroboration by a visit to Las Chinampas, the picturesque group of flower and verdure clad islets that now dot what was once the great lake of Xochimilco, in the southeastern portion of the valley of Mexico, towered over by the twin volcanoes.

"In the afternoon they came unto a land in which it seemed always afternoon," sang the poet.

> "All round the coast the languid air did swoon,
> Breathing like one that hath a weary dream."

Only a short distance from the noisy, crowded, bustling city of Mexico, with all the unpleasant sights, sounds and odors inevitably incident to any great center of population in any portion of the world, one finds himself tansported after a brief journey as if by magic to a scene of beauty and delight, of dreamy languor, of quiet and rest, only comparable to Tennyson's vision of fairy land, of the "land of the afternoon." To him it was but a dream. To the traveler of today it is an actuality.

It would seem as though the poet must at some time or other, perhaps in some prior incarnation, if such there be, have seen with his physical eyes this "land of the afternoon," this land where "the languid air did swoon, breathing like one that hath a weary dream."

For not only is all this realized, but the visitor has only to lift his eyes to the far off horizon to see, with a slight alteration in the text of the poem, what the poet described:

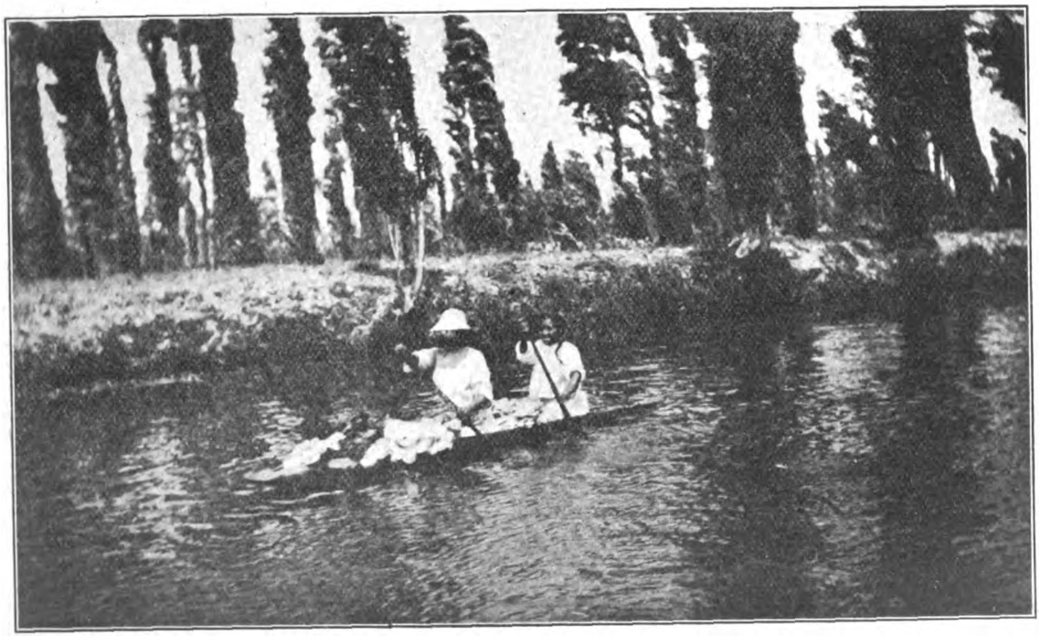

Photo by the Author A CANOE LOAD OF FLOWERS FOR A SONG

> "Far off (two) mountain tops,
> Two silent pinnacles of aged snow stood sunset flushed."

The lofty snow-clad pinnacles of Ixtaccihuatl and Popocatapetl, hoary with age, lift their cold, marble like, glistening summits three miles and more into the azure, standing out clear and sharp against the deep indigo-blue sky, and meeting the poet's description to the letter.

Then too as one floats idly down the stream in his picturesque bark there comes before his eyes the scene so aptly described:

> "The yellow down
> Bordered with palms and many a winding vale
> And meadow set with slender galingale;
> A land where all things always seemed the same."
>
> . . . .
>
> "Round and round the spicy downs the yellow Lotos
> dust is blown."

Just as the gentle breezes blow the petals of the bright hued flowers hither and yon, casting them on the water and drifting them in every direction in pure wantonness.

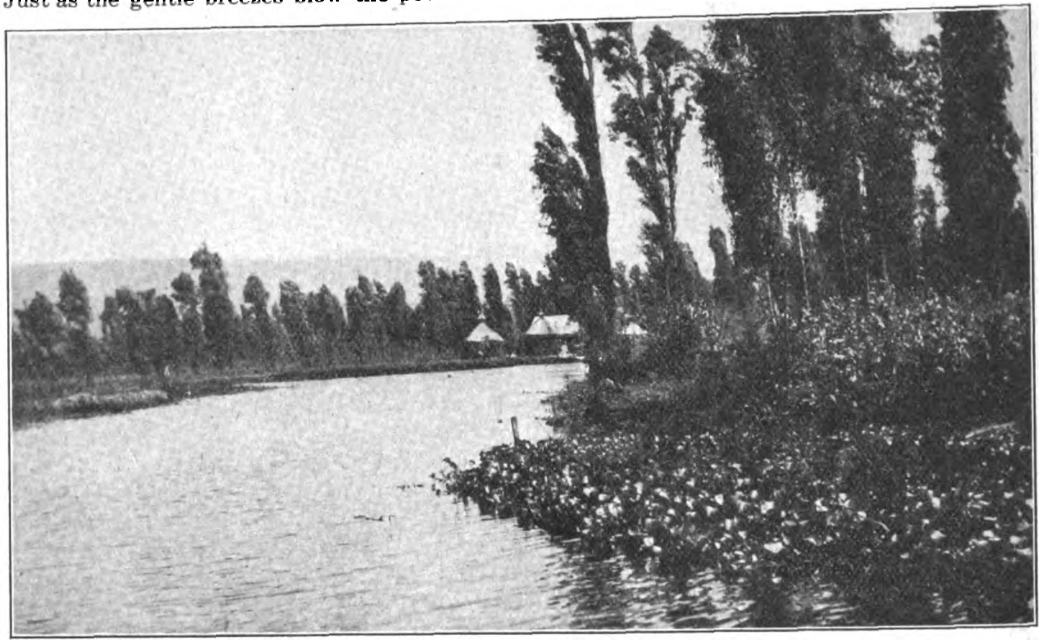

Photo by the Author FLOWER BORDERED BANKS OF THE MAIN CHANNEL

The poet still further describes the beauties of Las Chinampas:

> "Here are cool mosses deep.
> And thro' the moss the ivies creep,
> And in the stream the long leaved flowers weep,
> And from the craggy ledge the poppy hangs in sleep."

Reading this, one almost expects to be greeted in actuality by the Lotos-Eaters, offering fruit and flower, and to hear the song of invitation:

> "Oh rest ye, brother mariner, we will not wander more."

And indeed, the visitor, weary of revolution, of war, of argument, of strife, of misrepresentation, of greed that recks not consequences so long as some petty personal profit may be gained, is inclined to rest here and not to wander more.

But let us leave the field of poetry and get down to facts regarding this wonderful portion of a wonderful land.

Las Chinampas, the Indian appellation for these islets, now occupy what was once the comparatively unbroken expanse of Lake Xochimilco, which in Cortez's time covered a large area in the southern portion of the valley. By the construction of the famous drainage canal, begun by the Spaniards in 1607 and completed under Diaz, this and other lakes were drained to a greater or less extent, and much of their old beds was partially uncovered, presenting extensive areas of soil of unexampled fertility, composed as it was of the decayed vegetation of countless ages. The local tribes of Indians, skilled in agricultural pursuits and quick to see the opportunities thus presented, plunged into the half-dried muddy deposits and began the construction of islands—hundreds of them. A single large main channel was left, eighty to a hundred feet in width, and meandering across the former lake bed. From this wide channel at intevals of 25 to 40 feet the natives dug other and narrower ones in great number and threw the material excavated upon the half-submerged lands lying between. In this manner the surface of these islets was raised a couple of feet or more above that of the water—high enough to be assured against all danger of inundation. Cross channels were also excavated at regular intervals, the result being a series of hundreds of islets of half an acre to perhaps an acre in area, each surrounded by a row of willow trees planted on the very brink of the water, and whose abundant and tough fibrous roots served to hold the soil in place and to prevent any possibility of erosion.

On the extraordinarily fertile soil thus rescued from the water crops of all kinds are perennially, daily, produced with a profusion and rapidity of growth seldom seen elsewhere. Each day in the year is a day of harvest, and the proverb of a little land well tilled never had better exemplification than here. Flowers are the favorite crop, and from here comes the greater portion of that wonderful floral wealth which has for so many years made the flower markets of the metropolis one of the wonders of the world in the sight of travelers.

There are nodding fields of great crimson, pink, violet and white poppies, with stalks higher than a man's head and masses of bloom of a size difficult for any one accustomed to the poppies of the north to credit, presenting a gorgeous riot of color as they sway to and fro in the gentle breeze, scattering their petals in showers here and there, covering the water with their glory and lending an added touch of enchantment to the scene. Sweet peas, carnations, roses, pansies, calla lilies of gigantic size, other and unknown blossoms of strange shape and varied hue, are seen on every hand, interspersed with other patches of vividly green vegetation of various kinds, and with the tall, slender and graceful shafts of the protecting willows rustling in the breeze—all presenting one of the most attractive, interesting and wonderful spectacles of the kind that can be imagined. Although such a vision of beauty never could be imagined. Imagination is too feeble.

It is interesting to note, by the way, that these islands belong to those who made them or to their descendants, and that no one has been able to deprive them of that ownership, rich and tempting though they are, and despite the covetous glances that must have been cast upon them since their wonderful fertility and productiveness was first demonstrated by these industrious Indians. And these people are cleanly, as is the rule in this country where water is abundant; they are happy and prosperous looking, they are well if cheaply clad, the children are fat and rosy and laughing, all rejoicing in the return of peace—indeed it is difficult to imagine that but a few short months have elapsed since this bit of Paradise was the scene of bloody and long continued warfare with all its accompaniments of savagery—accompaniments found in any portion of the world where human kind engages deliberately in the wicked business of taking human life.

As one of the Indians said to the writer:

"Ah, Señor, we are all so glad peace has come. Now many visitors will come to Chinampas like to-day, and they will hire our canoes and buy our flowers and food and pay us money. And we can send our children to school again, for the Government is opening the schools."

And their ideas of money making have not reached the stage of greed. We had a canoe for several hours, the owner took us wherever we wished to go, helped us to secure good photographs, gave us information of interest and importance, and almost fell off the little craft into the water when we paid the equivalent of two bits—two shillings, twenty-five cents, a quarter of a dollar—for his not inconsiderable toil, the payment being about twice what he would have been glad to have accepted.

Swarms of canoes of every imaginable shape and size, many of the most odd and picturesque construction, loiter at the landing places or are poled or paddled slowly, dreamily along the water ways. No one is in a hurry. There is abundance of time and all are disposed to make the most of the day's enjoyment. The center of each canoe has a sheltering canopy—of wood, of canvas, of sheet iron, of blankets, of tin, of cane, of what not—but no matter how crude or homely the material of the awning, it is decorated with flowers in garlands and bunches and masses, each mariner vying with his rivals in making his craft as attractive and as appealing to the visitor as possible. Clad in snow white cotton garments of the same style that has come down from long before the conquest, these bronzed, mild mannered, pleasant featured Indians wait patiently for some one to engage their services. Then with a smile of pleasure and pride at having gotten the best of his competitors, the lucky one stands at the extreme stern of his craft, balancing himself oftentimes on his toes, and with deft sweeping of pole or paddle sends his craft along the water way, skillfully avoiding collisions which seem imminent in the throng, but always just escaping accident. With it all, one is impressed by the absolute good nature prevailing everywhere. There are no loud shouts of warning, no angry words when one secures an advantage, no appearance of displeasure of any kind. The canoe men wave their hands at each other in friendly greeting, signal or speak instructions in low and musical tones, and there is an air of calmness and equanimity about them that is distinctly pleasing to one accustomed to the riot, abuse and objurgation which would be the inevitable accompaniment of such scenes anywhere else except in this "land of the afternoon." Surely these Indians might well have furnished the pattern from which was drawn the picture of the mild-eyed, gentle mannered Lotos-Eaters

Photo by the Author   PICTURESQUE WATER-SIDE PLEASURE RESORTS

Here comes a great canoe with a happy family party gathered around a table set in the center. The grayhaired grandparents occupy the place of honor, and about them are grouped happy and smiling fathers and mothers and sweethearts, while in the bottom of the vessel tumble around pretty children and babies. Out from the shore shoots a small craft, a snow-white clad man at the stern, in the center a clean, plump, brown-cheeked woman, cooking most appetizing looking and smelling food over a charcoal fire. Two or three bronze, fat, laughing kidlets are leaning over the side of the vessel, staring in wonder at the passing show and waving their hands and smiling in return for the greetings bestowed upon them. The canoe is propelled alongside the one with the picnic party, a few words are exchanged, then the craft are made fast together and straightway the tempting food is passed across the intervening space, spread on the table and the hungry holiday makers fall to with good appetite. The woman busies herself cooking fresh relays of enchiladas, tortillas, chicken and other dainties, while a broad smile illuminates the face of the master of the small craft at the business success of his mate, the kidlets in the bottom of the canoe grinning just because their parents are grinning, why they know not.

Now come what seem to be great masses of bright hued flowers floating bodily on the surface of the water. In the center of each mass is a woman or a man all clothed in spotless white, sometimes sitting, sometimes standing, and wielding a paddle slowly, or sometimes making no motion whatever but idly drifting along in genuine lotos-eater fashion, watching the passing canoes for possible customers. It is an odd and singular sight presented by these floating flowery islets, but when they are approached they are seen to be little low-lying canoes so flower laden that no bit of them is exposed to view. And when any faint sign of interest is shown by the passers by, how quickly the captain of the flower craft comes to life. With an engaging smile, a flash of snow white teeth, the whole canoe load of gorgeous blossoms is tendered at a price which if paid would make a person ashamed to look an honest flower in the face forever after. One can buy an entire canoe load of the loveliest, sweetest, freshest flowers for what a single rose or carnation would cost in almost any American city.

Passing closely is another flower decked canoe with but two occupants—both young, both good looking, both happy, both so occupied with themselves that they are lost to their surroundings and oblivious to whatever may be passing or happening. They are lost in that oldest of the world's occupations—the most charming too, whether to the participant or the observer—love making. The canopy over their heads is flower decked, as indeed is appropriate—the maiden has a wreath of bright hued flowers about her neck, all about her lie flowers in profusion. The youth, overcome by the charm and romance of it all, as well as by the proximity of the loved one, frankly puts his arm around her—it has been there all the time—draws her to him, and then their lips meet in a warm kiss. The canoe man in the stern smiles upon them benignantly, we hastily avert our eyes lest they feel embarrassed but not sufficiently to lose sight of the charming occurrence—which by the way is repeated—and as our canoe passes theirs it would have been impossible for any one with good red blood in his veins to have avoided seeing the pretty picture out of the corner of his eyes. Again we see the happy, oblivious and envial couple exchange kisses, and who could blame them? They were as frank and unabashed as two doves in their love making, and their very frankness added to the charm of the idyll—even though one of the spectators was a white-haired man with grandchildren almost old enough to be parents themselves.

Many of the canoes carry music with them, the landing places being thronged with orchestras of two or three pieces who for the price of a song tender their services to assist in making a holiday, and sail for hours along the channels, twanging their guitars and mandolins, or drawing sweet music from their violins or other instruments, all the sweeter because it is in the open air and the sounds come drifting down the wind from every direction on the perfume laden breezes that blow so softly over the fields of blossoms—over this "land of the afternoon."

Here and there on the bank are picturesque pavilions of cane or grass, and here are dancing and feasting, with rough shelters of primitive construction affording accommodation for crude open air restaurants which are liberally patronized. An abundance of malt and vinous beverages seems to be consumed, but no one shows the effects of over-indulgence, if there be anything of that kind. There is plenty of laughter and jollity, plenty of joking and story telling, but no word of anger or undue excitement. Every one seems endowed with an endless stock of good humor and pleasure, and the atmosphere of the entire scene is so foreign to any display of the unpleasant characteristics of human nature in hours of relaxation, that it was impossible there should be anything to mar the beauty of the scene. It was a veritable lotos-eaters' experience, with all the softness and beauty and charm of the "land of the afternoon."

Photo by the Author GRAND CONCOURSE OF CANOES AT LAS CHINAMPAS

Floating idly along these placid streams, enjoying the balmy, spicy air, the odors of flower and field, gazing at the rugged volcanic craters and lava flows in the distance, a dreamy haze floating over it all, the canoe man was asked:

"Is it always like this?"

"Yes, it is like this every day in the year."

"Is there never any cold or any hot weather?"

"No, it is never any hotter or colder than today."

A veritable land of the afternoon.

A veritable lotos-eaters' paradise.

A veritable land where one can rest and wander no more.

What wonder that the Indians look happy and contented—their wants are few and easily satisfied, and they live in an atmosphere of dreamland. The only thing of any kind that detracted from the poetry of the scene, that made one realize that after all he was not among the lotos-eaters of the Orient, far removed from modern "civilization" and its appliances, pleasant and unpleasant, was the occasional "put-put-put" of one of the two or three motor boats that infest these channels and with their uncouth noises and still more uncouth odors momentarily destroy the charm of the occasion and bring one back to the solid earth again. But these by their very nature are soon gone and again one resigns himself to the enjoyment of this "land of the afternoon," while his canoe floats along the placid water, disturbing the petals of bright hued flowers scattered liberally by nature's hands on the surface of the stream, looking at the rugged lava broken hills that bound the lake in one direction, or still farther on the distant and hazy horizon catching glimpses of "The Sleeping Woman" or of old "Popo" himself, the twin volcanoes that have stood sentry so long above this historical and romantic valley.

One of the oddest features of this land of enchantment is the ingenuity and originality displayed by many of the canoe men in their choice of names for their craft. With pencil and scrap of paper some of the more striking of these are jotted down. Here they come in brave array: La Encantadora (the Enchantress), El Progreso (the Progress), La Precioso (the Precious), La Arco de Noe (the Ark of Noah), Adios Amigos (Good-bye, Friends), La Saltarini (the Dancer), La Llave de Oro (the Key of Gold), El Huelgista (the Striker), La Relampago (the Lightning), La Lijera (the Polished One), La Fe de Dios (the Faith of God), La Reforma de Faustino (the Reform of Faust), La Reforma de los Inglesas (the Reform of the Englishmen—which is a trifle obscure), La Mariposa (the Butterfly), La Chabarria (the Young Girl), Viva la Constitucion, La Reina de Rosario, La Esperanza (the Hope), La Barca de Atalanta, La Fortuna de Flores, La Bonita Emerito, El London, La Azteca, and so on. On one canoe appears the motto: "Ni me presto, ni me doy. Soy solo de mi—Pedro Nivera." Or: "I do not lend, I do not give—I belong only to me—Pedro Rivera." A selfish sort of chap! It may be added in conclusion that while these charming islets are called "floating islands," they are not so in reality, but all are anchored securely to land. Our canoeman, however, assured us that if we cared to take the journey to Lake Texcoco, many leagues distant, he would show us some "sure enough" floating islands. They are simply great masses of roots of trees and vegetation upon which soil has been piled for cultivation, but which are not attached to the bottom of the lake and can be and are towed from place to place at the whim of the owner. But this is enough for once. It is not worth while to say more and run the risk of dispelling the overwhelming charm of this "land of the afternoon."

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THE improvement of the port of Mazatlan is shortly to be commenced and it is said that several million dollars will be expended upon the project, which includes the construction of a breakwater, wharves, etc. This improvement has been under consideration for an extended period.

THE Governor of the State of Zacatecas announces that work will soon be commenced on the completion of the railway between the capital city of his State and the city of Durango. This road was commenced many years ago, but was never completed beyond Sombrerete. It will open up a rich mineral and agricultural region.

GOVERNOR DIEGUEZ of the State of Jalisco has under consideration the construction of a railroad from the city of Guadalajara to the port of Chamela, on the Pacific coast between Manzanillo and San Blas. The territory that would be traversed is very rich in natural products and its development has been hindered by lack of transportation facilities, which the railroad would supply.

AS an inducement to buy stock of the Mexican Petroleum Export Company (Ltd.), advertisements in New York newspapers state that dividends amounting to 55 per cent have been paid during the past year. This is surely a remarkable showing when one recalls the widely published and constantly reiterated assertions as to the absolute ruin of Mexican industries and the inability of foreigners to realize anything on their large investments.

LATE NEWS BREVITIES

Translated from the Mexican Press

BEGINNING with November 1st the Pullman tariff in force before the year 1913 will be restored, payable in Mexican specie.

THE Constitutionalist Railway lines report that all the stations between Zacatecas and Torreon which were destroyed by Villistas have been rebuilt.

WORK has been resumed on the railway from Saltillo toward the Gulf of Mexico, which is being constructed by the State Government. Employment is thereby given to several thousand men.

THREE of the richest mines in the State of Michoacan—"Tlalpujahua," "Yapatillos," and "La Libertad"—have resumed operations, giving employment to large numbers of workers.

RAILWAY traffic between San Luis Potosi and Tampico has been restored and is now regularly conducted. The suspension was due to the changing of the locomotives from coal to oil burners.

WIRELESS telegraphic communication has been established between Mexico City and Merida, the capital of Yucatan, thereby greatly facilitating public as well as private business.

ORDERS have been issued strictly prohibiting the practice of fixing prices for goods or services of any kind in foreign money, and requiring that no other standard than the money of the country shall be followed.

THE Secretary of Fomento has dispatched a special commission to the State of Guerrero for the purpose of examining recent discoveries of gold in that region and arranging for suitable exploitation thereof.

THE "Pastita" mine in the State of Guanajuato, said to be a rich concern, has resumed operations with a large force. New machinery has arrived from the United States and many workmen are now employed.

SOME promising placer mines have recently been discovered on the boundaries of the States of Zacatecas and Jalisco, and the Department of Fomento has sent a commission to examine them with a view to their proper development.

THE State Government of Tabasco has secured large quantities of food supplies of prime necessity and is selling them to the common people at moderate prices compared with those demanded by many merchants, mostly foreigners.

UPWARD of fifteen thousand acres of former community lands have been restored to the city of Colima. These lands were granted by the Spanish viceroys many generations ago, and will now be restored to the original owners.

BUSINESS at the custom houses at the chief ports of entry has increased to such an extent that it has been found necessary to require the employes to remain on duty daily several hours more than under ordinary circumstances.

THE mines at Catorce, in the State of San Luis Potosi, some of the oldest and richest in the Republic, have resumed operations after a long period of suspension. Much antimony is produced in that region, as well as other minerals.

THE project for the construction of a railway along the entire coast of the Gulf of California is reported to be in an advanced stage and it is expected the plan will be carried out, thus opening a very wealthy section.

RAILWAY traffic between Tehuacan, in the State of Puebla, and the city of Oaxaca, capital of the State of the same name, has been in regular operation for some time, showing that conditions in those States are practically normal.

THE State Government of Yucatan is considering the construction of a railroad connecting Merida and other Mexican points with San Jose de Guatemala. The preliminary work is under way, and it is expected construction will shortly begin.

TWELVE million dollars in specie has been turned in to the National Treasury as collections of custom dues at the port of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, for the quarter ending November 1st. This amount equals six million dollars in American specie.

A COMMISSION has been appointed by the Department of Fomento to study the ravages of the boll weevil in the cotton fields of the Laguna district, with a view to combating it. This pest originated years ago in the northern part of Coahuila, so it is said.

HEALTH conditions in the city of San Luis Potosi are reported as greatly improved. There are only forty cases in the municipal hospital and the typhus has almost disappeared, though the winter months are usually the worst for that disease.

THE Government of the State of Sonora proposes to establish an agricultural school in the vicinity of the city of Hermosillo, the State capital, for the purpose of instructing farmers in modern methods and in the most suitable crops for cultivation.

FROM every State in the Republic reports are constantly received of the organization and activity of labor unions, which are doing much to alleviate the condition of the working class, who never before in the history of the country were permitted to organize in this manner.

THE city of Tampico is being put in good sanitary condition by the construction of sewers, new street pavements and other improvements. Similar steps are being taken in Victoria, capital of the State of Tamaulipas, as well as in other important cities of the northern portion of the Republic.

THE Chamber of Commerce of Torreon is taking steps to provide means for the payment of all salaries and wages in that district in specie, in accordance with the recent decree of the First Chief. That region is one of the leading cotton producing and manufacturing centers of the Republic.

IN the District of San Pedro Comolte, in the State of Sinaloa, the ejidos have been restored to their former owners. Experts in agriculture have been detailed to give the Indians who have thus secured their old homes the necessary agricultural instruction in order that they may make the best use of them.

BECAUSE of the increase in the demand for orchilla and the consequent elevation of its price in foreign countries, where it is valued for its dyeing qualities, the export duty has been increased to two cents per kilo in Mexican specie, or a trifle less than one-half cent per pound in American gold or currency.

EXTENSIVE irrigation works are now under way for the utilization of the waters of the Rio San Juan in the State of Querétaro. These are being undertaken by the State government for the assistance of small farmers. The section benefited is one of the richest agricultural portions of the Republic.

OFFICIAL notice has been issued that local or State officials have no authority to issue permits for the exploitation of the petroleum deposits of the Republic. Only the national officials have this power and all applications must be made to the Department of Fomento, which has this matter in charge.

UNDER the advice of Governor Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila, it is proposed to extend the operations of the "Finance Commission of the Laguna" to all portions of the State named, in order that all farmers so desiring may secure the necessary financial aid for the proper operation of their holdings, that being the object of the commission.

IT is stated that the industrial situation in Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, and one of the most important manufacturing centers in the country, is normal. All establishments have resumed operations, while the general circulating medium is specie. There are said to be no idle men in the city, or at least none who desire employment.

THE Agrarian Commission is at work in the State of Hidalgo on the delineation and measurement of the ejidos, or community lands, in fifteen to twenty of the leading municipalities, and their restoration to the rightful owners will be made as soon as possible. New pueblos are also being established in response to petitions under the law of expropriation, or eminent domain.

THE Government has appointed a commission to study the feasibility of refining the greater portion of the petroleum product in Mexico, instead of, as at present, exporting it for that purpose. It is believed there is no good reason why this industry should not become a prominent and profitable one.

ALL the mines in the State of Guerrero are now reported to be in operation, that region being entirely tranquil. These mines are all owned by Mexicans and their product will be sent to the mint in Mexico City for conversion into coin. With the reopening of the mines many who had been in arms have solicited and received amnesty in order that they may resume peaceful pursuits.

THE Secretary of Fomento, Pastor Rouaix, has sent a special commission to the Gulf of California to study the best methods for the preservation of the pearl oyster deposits in that region. The exclusive concessions that were granted under former administrations have been abrogated and means are to be decided upon both to preserve the beds and at the same time permit exploitation to a reasonable degree.

AFTER conferring with the farmers, the Government of the State of Querétaro has agreed to purchase their corn crops at a fair price, the grain to be put on sale at retail, at lower rates than are demanded by dealers. The farmers will receive more than they have in the past, while consumers will be enabled to purchase at much lower prices. The dealers who are thus frustrated in their exorbitant demands are mostly foreigners.

NOTICE has been given that until the issuance of a new order upon the subject, the free importation of crude petroleum from the United States will be continued at the ports of Guaymas, Agua Prieta, Naco, Nogales, Los Algodones, Mexicali, Tiajuana, Ensenada, Magdalena Bay, San Jose del Cabo, La Paz, Santa Rosalia, Topolobampo, Mazatlan, and San Blas. This privilege has been extended because of the difficulty in transporting Mexican petroleum to those points.

GENERAL FEDERICO CHAPOY, Governor of the State of San Luis Potosi, reports that conditions in that State are rapidly approaching normal. Many of the largest mines have resumed operations, thereby affording employment for thousands who have been idle; the crops have been large, and extensive importations of food products have been made from other portions of the Republic, there now being an abundance of food obtainable at moderate prices.

THE period for the resumption of work in the mines of the country has been extended for three months from the 15th of November. It is believed that by the expiration of that time there will be no valid reason for non-resumption. From all over the Republic, news is being received by the Department of Fomento of the reopening of important mines, while the same department is daily in receipt of a constantly increasing number of petitions for permission to exploit the petroleum measures in various localities.

THE leading hacendados of the State of Yucatan are conferring with the State officials upon the subject of the best method for inducing immigration to that section. There is abundance of well paid employment for far more than the available supply and it is proposed to devise an adequate plan to meet the situation. A fund for the purpose is to be raised by each henequen grower contributing one cent (Mexican specie) per kilo of his crop. This is equivalent to a little less than one quarter of a cent per pound in American currency or gold.

MILITARY colonies are being established in the Territory of Quintana Roo for the purpose of bringing into cultivation large areas of fertile land that have either been abandoned by their former holders or have never been reclaimed. It is proposed to establish schools, etc., for the benefit of the colonists and their families, who will be soldiers whose services are no longer required in the army. There is said to be great enthusiasm among the troops over this prospect for relief from military duties, coupled with the certainty of being provided with homes and sufficient lands for self-support.

MEXICAN NEWS NOTES

Translated from the Mexican Press

ONE million dollars in specie was received in Guadalajara on November 1st for the payment of Government employes.

THE economical situation in Oaxaca is reported to be much ameliorated, which has been aided by the carrying out of the decree for the payment of salaries and wages in national specie.

ALL State employes in Zacatecas were paid double the usual amount of their salaries for the month of November, in order to aid them in tiding over the temporary period of depression.

A NIGHT school for the instruction of working men who are employed in the daytime has been opened in Vera Cruz. Similar institutions are being established in other portions of the Republic.

ALL vagrants in the capital city of the State of Tabasco are being forced to seek employment, or in lieu thereof are put to work on various public improvements. There is abundance of labor for all desiring it.

THE State Government of Vera Cruz is taking steps to establish a kindergarten in the city of the same name, as it is greatly needed for the instruction of children too young to attend the higher grades of schools.

THE Preparatory College in the city of Vera Cruz, which is said to have suffered great damage during the American occupation, is being placed in suitable condition for use. The public library is also receiving similar attention.

FROM all portions of the Republic information is received by the press of Mexico City that the decree requiring payment of salaries and wages in specie is being observed. In most cases employers are complying cheerfully with the law.

A LARGE quantity of equipment has been dispatched from the city of Mexico to Culiacan, the capital of the State of Sinaloa, for use in the schools that are being established under instructions from the Governor, General Angel Flores.

DISPATCHES from all portions of the Republic in the daily press indicate that the candidacy of First Chief Carranza for the Presidency is being received with approbation by all classes. The labor unions are going on record as indorsing it

ALL the merchants of the city of San Luis Potosi have been in consultation with the State officials for the purpose of determining upon some plan for the amelioration of the situation as regards supplies and prices of food articles of prime necessity.

FIRST CHIEF CARRANZA has given his hearty approval to the project for the establishment of military colonies in the Territory of Quintana Roo, for the accommodation of soldiers desiring to leave the service and who are no longer required by the country.

A NORMAL SCHOOL for Professors has been opened in the city of Cuernavaca, capital of the State of Morelos, for the education of teachers in order to carry out the comprehensive educational plan inaugurated by the Governor, General Dionisio Carreon.

FOOTBALL and baseball are obtaining a strong foothold around the capital city as well as elsewhere in the Republic. The local press contains regularly interesting accounts of match games of both sports, participated in by foreigners of various nationalities as well as Mexicans.

REPORTS from the State of Michoacan have been received showing that railway traffic is normal, all classes of trains running regularly and without interference of any kind, and that other conditions are satisfactory, the mines and other industries having been resumed on an extensive scale.

THERE has been appropriated for the government of the State of Guanajuato for the fiscal year the sum of $1,172,000 in specie, or the equivalent of $586,000 in American money. Of this, $500,000, or $250,000 American currency, is to be devoted to educational and public improvement purposes of various kinds.

AN invention has been perfected in San Luis Potosi for the manufacture of tortillas, by which it is claimed three thousand an hour can be produced of as high class as the hand made article. For centuries this article of food has been solely a hand product, requiring much labor and loss of time.

A COMPREHENSIVE system of railway extension is being prepared by Secretary Bonillas of the Department of Communications and Public Works. It is proposed to open many sections of the Republic that are rich in natural wealth but which have not as yet been developed owing to lack of transportation.

THE reclamation of large areas of land now covered by the waters of Lake Texcoco in the vicinity of Mexico City is to be undertaken at once by the Department of Public Works, thereby adding materially to the agricultural possibilities of the valley of Mexico. The land thus reclaimed is exceedingly fertile.

WITH the new machinery recently installed in the national arsenal in Mexico City many thousands of injured rifles captured during the revolution are being put into good condition, while large numbers of machine guns taken in the same manner are being repaired. All the missing parts are of Mexican manufacture.

THE School of Arts and Crafts that has been established in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, gives notice that it is prepared to execute all classes of work—iron and wood products, tailoring, printing, etc.—and the public is asked to patronize the institution in order that if possible it may be made self-supporting.

GENERAL PLUTARCO ELIAS CALLES, who has been the military commander of the State of Sonora throughout almost the entire revolution, has reported personally to the First Chief that conditions in that State are normal, that working people have abundant employment and every city and town within his jurisdiction is tranquil.

APPLICATION has been made to the Department of Communications and Public Works for a change of route of the proposed railroad from Aguascalientes, through the State of Jalisco, to Tepic, and to the seacoast of that Territory. The change is desired in order to reach certain rich mineral sections that were not touched by the original plan.

IN reply to a note from the British government regarding a recent publication in a Mexico City newspaper that Minister Thomas D. Hohler, who has represented that Government in Mexico for some time, was persona non grata to the Constitutionalist authorities, Secretary of Foreign Relations Aguilar has disclaimed any such sentiment, and declared with positiveness that the minister is distinctly persona grata to the national authorities.

UNDER instructions of Secretary of Fomento Pastor Rouaix, a technical commission has been sent to the Territory of Quintana Roo, for the purpose of making a thorough study of the flora and fauna, the climate and the various resources of that little known region. Geographical, topographical, hydrographical and geodetical surveys will be made and the greatest care will be taken to secure the most exact data in every direction.

IN Guadalajara a private citizen has established a public dining room where large numbers of the poor are fed daily. In this enterprise he is assisted by some of the leading merchants. The authorities have taken severe measures to deal with merchants who secrete supplies of food articles of prime necessity, governmental regulations requiring that they report accurately all stocks on hand.

BY a recent decree issued by the First Chief all salaries and wages of any class whatever throughout the Republic are made payable solely in Mexican specie or its equivalent in the legal issue of paper currency, the former being established as the standard without regard to fluctuations in exchange value. This method had already been adopted by a number of the large employers of labor, notably certain leading oil and mining companies.

THE Governor of Guanajuato has taken steps to compel dealers in food articles of common use to charge only reasonable prices therefor, the tendency having been to demand exorbitant rates. A fixed scale will be published after due examination of the cost of various products.

THE new Mexican Minister to Guatemala, Señor Jose Bermudez de Castro, informs his government that reports recently published in the foreign press regarding the activities of Felix Diaz and his associates on the Mexican side of the Guatemalan border, have no foundation in fact. Instead of having large forces at their command and carrying on a campaign, they have been defeated and dispersed and are known to be suffering from hunger. No aid whatever is being secured by them from Guatemala.

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Sanitary and Educational Problems

Concluded from page 5

"The annual average, corresponding to the same period, of deaths in the city of Mexico *due to avoidable disease, if proper care for private and public hygiene be taken*—an arraignment against the administration of General Diaz—reaches more than 11,500 deaths. Now as the deaths occasioned by the Revolution during the six years surely do not reach 70,000, then we find that the Government of General Diaz—so greatly eulogized—in the midst of peace and prosperity, did not kill fewer people than a formidable Revolution which set afire the whole Republic, and horrified the whole world.

"But the truth is that General Diaz's Government did not recognize the formula of *integral progress*—the only one which truly ennobles Humanity—and wasted its energies in showy manifestations of *a progress purely material and fictitious*, with the inevitable train of vice and corruption. The ostentatious pageant—the most shameless lie with which it has ever been attempted to deceive the world—which celebrated the anniversary of National Independence, took place exactly a few weeks prior to the popular revolution of 1910, before whose onrush the Government fell like a house of cards.

"Let us now turn to the Constitutionalist Government. On its banner it has written the resolve to better the condition of life of the people, socially and individually, and its sincerity and energy may be seen not only in the words but in deeds.

"The Constitutionalist Government during its sojourn at Vera Cruz at the close of 1914 and the beginning and middle of 1915, while the army reconquered the territory of the Republic, at first almost wholly in the hands of the enemy, in spite of being engaged in the most active campaign in the annals of Mexican history, still found time to take up the efficient political and administrative reorganization of the country.

"Whoever may know something of our history, and may view with impartiality the long and complicated process of formation of our nationality, from the pre-Cortez period – through the troublous time of the Conquest, colonial days under the viceroys, the wars of independence, the convulsions only calmed by the iron hand of Diaz, of nearly one century of autonomous existence, until our own time—will be bound to discover in the salient manifestations of the life, of the national organism, the unequivocal symptoms and stygmata of a serious pathological state, brought about by two principal agents: *The loathsome corruption of the upper classes, and the inconscience and wretchedness of the lower.*

"The iniquitous means used by Don Porfirio Diaz to impose peace, during more than thirty years, not only annulled all efforts tending to remedy the evils discussed, but rather determined their greater intensity. As a matter of fact, it satisfied the omnivorous appetites of his friends and satellites; it crushed and caused the criminal disappearance of whoever failed to render tribute or bow to his will; it fostered cowards and sycophants, repressing systematically and with an iron hand every impulse of manliness and truth. It placed the administration of justice at the unconditional disposal of the rich, paying not the slightest heed to the lamentations of the poor. In a word, it increased the immorality and corruption of the small and privileged ruling class and increased in consequence the sufferings of the immense majority groveling in ignorance and hunger. Therefore, the thirty or more years of prætorian peace but served to deepen still further the secular chasm of hatred and rancor separating the two classes mentioned, and to provoke necessarily and fatally the social convulsion, begun in 1910, and which has shaken the whole country.

"The three aspects of the problem which I have presented—the economic, intellectual and moral—coincide with the purpose of *education* through *schools*, as ideally dreamed of by thinkers, that is as "*institutions whose object is to guide and control the formation of habits to realize the highest social good.*" But our schools, unfortunately, have not yet acquired the necessary strength to assuage in an appreciable degree the horrible ambient immorality, or to counterweigh its inevitable effects of social dissolution.

"*The true problem of Mexico consists therefore in hygienizing the population physically and morally, and to endeavor to find, through all means available, an improvement in the precarious economical situation of our proletariat.*

"The part of the solution of the problem which corresponds to the Department of Education or to the Municipalities, must be realized, *establishing and maintaining the greatest possible number of schools*, to do which their cost must be reduced by means of *a rational simplification of organization and of school programs.* This must be done without losing sight *of the fact that its preferential orientations should be marked by the character essentially technological of the teaching*, to cooperate with all the other organs of the Government, in the work of economical improvement of the masses, and *the diffusion of the elemental principles of hygiene*, as an efficient protection for the race.

"And as finally, the medium does constitute an educational factor more powerful than the schools themselves, *the country must, before and above all, organize its public administration upon a basis of absolute morality.*

"To come to a conclusion, restricting myself to the purpose of my address, it will suffice to say, that when the Constitutionalist Government ruled but an insignificant portion of the country there were yet sent to the principal centres of culture of the United States several hundred teachers to investigate and secure data to reform school matters in Mexico. This was done at a time when dollars were of great importance for the purchase of war material.

"Subsequently, in spite of the countless obstacles which seemed to obstruct every step of the Government, the number of schools has been greatly increased. It is now much greater than it was before the Revolution; in some States it has been doubled. There have been effected besides important works of city improvement in Mexico, Saltillo, Queretaro, Vera Cruz, etc., and the mouth of the Panuco River is about to be dredged. It has been specified in the respective contracts that the soil taken out is to be used to fill in the marshy zone around Tampico, thus eliminating the chief cause of this city's unhealthfulness.

"In short, in order that the Government which has arisen from the Constitutionalist Revolution may realize its program of public betterment, which implies the physical and moral hygienizing of Mexico, it is only necessary to give it time. Only some magic art could transform in a moment a group of human beings into an angel choir, or a piece of land into a Paradise."

NEWS NOTES

Translated from the Mexican Press

A MILITARY industrial school has been established in the city of San Luis Potosi by the State authorities.

FOURTEEN locomotives and sixty-five cars have been received recently for the use of the Constitutionalist lines of railway.

A WIRELESS telegraphic station has been established at the summit between Vera Cruz and Mexico City, at Maltrata station.

THE telegraphic money order system is now in operation in all portions of the Republic, all transactions being in national specie.

THE Government has let contracts for the sinking of several additional wells in the petroleum district of Vera Cruz and Tamaulipas.

A FACTORY for the production of flour from bananas is to be opened in the city of Mexico, as also a similar one in the city of Puebla.

A LABOR arbitration tribunal has been organized in Yucatan, which will deal with all questions arising between employers and their help.

THREE hundred public libraries are to be established in various portions of the State of Yucatan for the education of the common people.

THE payment of salaries and wages in Mexican specie throughout the Republic is having a very salutary effect in restoring normal commercial conditions.

STEAMER traffic between Mexican ports and Japan, which has been suspended for over one year, has been resumed. The vessels call at California ports en route.

REPORTS from all portions of the Republic are to the effect that campaign clubs are being organized to advance the candidacy of First Chief Carranza for the Presidency.

AT Ameca, in the State of Jalisco, the Indians who were deprived of their lands under the Diaz regime are having them restored, as is being done generally throughout the Republic.

GENERAL ENRIQUE ESTRADA has been appointed Governor of the State of Zacatecas, in place of General Carlos T. Plank, who has been appointed to a position in the capital city.

ON November 6th the Superior Court of Justice was reopened in the State of Puebla, there being no further need for military tribunals in that State, order having been established.

THE merchants of Vera Cruz have voluntarily contributed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars Mexican specie for the purpose of carrying out certain sanitary reforms in that city.

THE recent decree of the First Chief directing that all public officials shall avoid nepotism so far as possible has resulted in the discharge of many employes who came under this inhibition.

AN active campaign is being carried on in Colima, under the direction of Governor Juan Jose Rios, against the illicit selling of intoxicating beverages. The laws regulating the traffic are very strict.

A SMALL band of rebels calling themselve-Felicistas, or adherents of Felix Diaz, are reported by deserters to be wandering in the remote portions of Chiapas and living on monkeys and other wild game.

THE WORKINGMAN'S CONGRESS of the State of Yucatan began its sessions in Merida on the 19th of November. Candidates for the State Congress were nominated in anticipation of the approaching election.

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LATE NEWS NOTES

Translated from the Mexican Press

THE Department of Mines has given permission for the exploitation of certain placer gold mines in the State of Michoacan which are said to be promising.

INSTRUCTIONS have been issued that all dues to the railways, both for freight and passage, must hereafter be paid in specie or its equivalent in paper currency.

THE farmers of the State of Chihuahua report that crop prospects are better than for several years past and that the general agricultural situation is much improved.

THE Government of the State of Nuevo Leon proposes to establish an Academy of Music in the city of Monterrey for the purpose of giving instruction to all who may desire.

THE Alvarado and Santa Eulalia mines in Chihuahua, two of the richest and most productive in that State, have resumed operations and are employing a large number of men.

WIRELESS communication has been established between Mexico City and Guaymas, Mazatlan, Manzanillo and Guadalajara. Other points on the west coast will also be connected in the immediate future.

A CONCESSION which had been granted for the construction of a railway between Guadalajara and a point on the Pacific coast has been forfeited because of failure of the concessionaires to comply with the terms of the agreement.

DIRECTOR ZERTUCHE of the Constitutionalist railway lines reports that traffic in all portions of the Republic is rapidly becoming normal. The road beds are in good shape, damage done by floods has been repaired, and trains are being operated regularly in every direction.

DON ERNESTO DE MENCOS, Minister of Guatemala, has arrived in the capital and has presented his credentials to the Government. Friendly relations were some time ago established by the clearing up of certain misunderstandings between the two countries.

FOLLOWING the decree recently issued establishing specie as the basis for payment of all salaries and wages to workers of whatever class, Governor Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila has issued a notification that the minimum wage of any laborer in that State shall in the future be five pesos, or two dollars and one-half gold, daily.

THE newspapers of the capital and elsewhere are discussing the feasibility of the establishment of free coinage of silver as a measure for the more prompt rehabilitation of the financial and currency problems of the country. This idea has been advanced on several occasions, but it is not yet known whether the authorities have seriously considered it.

THE Bureau of Industries of the Department of Fomento is actively engaged in the examination of national lands for the purpose of determining the existence thereon of mineral and other resources that have not been developed, and is preparing data concerning such deposits which are available for the use of persons desiring to exploit the same.

EXTENSIVE veins of coal have been discovered in the District of San Juan de los Llanos, in the State of Puebla, and a company with ample capital has been organized for their development upon a large scale. This discovery will prove of great value to that portion of the Republic, as the fuel supply has hitherto been brought almost entirely from Northern Coahuila at great expense.

EXPORTS from New York to Mexico show a steady increase as demonstrated by the Monthly Trade Reports of the National City Bank of New York. For the month of October, 1914, the total amount of exports to Mexican points from the port of New York was $833,226. For the same period in 1915 the total was $1,034,370, and for twenty-eight days of the month of October, 1916, the total was $2,737,942. This would seem to indicate a very healthy condition of affairs and a promise of the rapid restoration of normal conditions, as can be seen by reference to statistics of former years.

GENERAL ARNULFO GONZALES has been appointed Governor of the State of Chihuahua, in the place of Colonel Ignacio Treviño, who has been given a mission of importance elsewhere.

ON November 19th the first Workingmen's Congress met in Merida, capital of Yucatan. All questions affecting the condition of the working people were discussed and measures taken to secure the carrying out of the reforms pledged by the revolution. This congress was under government auspices and its recommendations will be submitted to the regular State Congress for approval or amendment. Great expectations are entertained regarding the outcome.

A CONVENTION of municipal officials from every part of the State of Morelos was recently held in the city of Cuernavaca for the purpose of discussing the best means for benefiting the people. The announcement was made that Governor Carreon had prepared a plan for a general system of education, including physical, intellectual and moral culture, together with agricultural experimental stations and other industrial features. These schools will be for the use of both men and women, and others especially suitable for women will be provided.

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SUPPLEMENT TO THE MEXICAN REVIEW

First Chief Carranza Outlines Proposed Reforms to the Organic Law of the Country

At the opening of the sessions of the Constituent Congress in Queretaro, on December 1, First Chief Carranza delivered an address in which he outlined the various changes in the Constitution which he deems necessary in order to carry out the reforms to which the Constitutionalists have pledged themselves. He said:

"Honorable Deputies:

"One of the greatest satisfactions that I have had, since the struggle began, which in my position as Constitutional Governor of Coahuila I initiated against the usurpation of the Government of the Republic, up to now, is that which I experience in the moments in which I come to place in your hands, in compliance with one of the promises that in the name of the Revolution I made in the City of Vera Cruz to the Mexican people, the project of the reformed Constitution, a project in which all the political reforms are embodied which an experience of several years and an attentive and careful observation, have suggested to me as indispensable to cement upon solid bases the institutions, under the shield of which the nation must and can usefully labor for her prosperity, guiding her march towards progress by the path of Liberty and Right, because if Right is what regulates the function of all the social elements, fixing for each one its sphere of action, it cannot be in any manner whatsoever profitable if in the field that shall be exercised and developed there is not the spontaneity and the security without which there would be lacking the elements that, coordinating the aspirations and the hopes of all the members of society, impels them to see in the welfare of all the prosperity of each by establishing and realizing the great principle of solidarity, upon which must rest all the institutions that tend to look for and realize human perfection.

"The political Constitution of 1857 that our fathers left us as a precious legacy, under the shelter of which has become consolidated the Mexican nationality that entered into the popular soul with the war of Reform, in which great conquests were won, and which was the banner that the people carried to the fields in the war against intervention unquestionably carries in its precepts a consecration to the highest principles, recognized through the resplendence of the fire that produced the greatest Revolution the world ever witnessed, in the latter part of the Seventeenth Century, and which, sanctioned by constant and patient practice, produced two of the greatest and most powerful peoples of the world—England and the United States.

"But unfortunately the legislators of 1857 contented themselves with the proclamation of general principles which they did not try to carry into practice by accommodating them to the necessities of the Mexican people to give them prompt and full satisfaction, so that our political code has in general the aspect of abstract formulas in which scientific conclusions of great speculative value have been condensed, but from which could be derived but little or no positive utility.

"In effect, the individual rights that the Constitution of 1857 declares are the basis of social institutions, have been trampled upon in an almost constant manner by the diverse governments which from the promulgation of said Constitution have succeeded each other in the Republic, and the organic laws of resort designed to protect them, far from reaching a prompt and sure result, did nothing but entangle the march of justice, making almost impossible the action of the courts, not only of the federal courts—which continually found themselves strangled because of the numberless proceedings—but also the common courts, whose course was always obstructed by virtue of the proceedings of delay which were dictated without rhyme or reason.

"But, there is still more.

"The recourse of appeal, established with a high social purpose, soon became disnaturalized until, by being converted into a political weapon, and afterwards into an appropriate means with which to put an end to the sovereignty of the States, for in fact they became subject to the revision of the Supreme Court, even the most insignificant acts of their authorities, and as that high tribunal, because of the manner in which their members were designated, was completely at the disposal of the Chief Executive, it came to be well known that the declaration of the rights-of-man in the face of the Federal Constitution of 1857, had not had the practical importance that from it one could expect.

"In virtue of this, the first one of the bases upon which the entire structure of the social institutions rests, was inefficacious to give stability to the present Constitution and to adapt them to that object which was to relate in a practical and prompt manner the individual to the State and the State to the individual, pointing out their respective limitations within which their activity should be developed without hindrance of any kind whatsoever and beyond which it becomes disturbing and anarchical if on the part of the individual, or despotic and oppressive if on the part of the authority, but the principle to which we have just given due credit, in spite of being expressly and categorically formulated, has not had in reality any practical value whatsoever, although on the ground of constitutional right, it is an unquestionable truth.

"Exactly the same thing has happened with the other fundamental principles of the said Constitution of 1857, which up to now have been but a beautiful hope, the realization of which has been scoffed at steadily, and, in effect, the National sovereignty which resides in the people does not express nor has it signified in Mexico a reality except on very few occasions, since if not always, yet in a certain manner, rarely interrupted, the public power has been exercised, not by the command freely conferred by the will of the Nation, manifested in the form that the law points out, by the imposition of those who have had in their hands the public power to invest themselves, or persons designated by them, with the character of representatives of the people.

"Neither has had fulfillment and therefore any positive, appreciable value, nor has the other fundamental principle clearly established by the Constitution of 1857, relative to the division of the exercise of the public power, for such division has only been, as a general rule, written in open opposition to the reality, all the powers in fact having been exercised by one single person, reaching even to the degree of manifesting, by a series of acts constantly repeated, contempt of the supreme law, giving to the Chief Executive the power of legislating upon the class of subjects, the Legislative power having been reduced to this function. In fact it became reduced to the delegating of powers and to the approval afterwards of what had been done by virtue thereof, without the case having been presented, this not only without reproof, but without any observation whatsoever.

"Up to the present time the precept has been equally a vain promise that consecrates the federation of the States which form the Mexican Republic, establishing that they must be free and sovereign as regards their interior regime, since the history of the country demonstrates that as a general rule, and save with rare exceptions, sovereignty has been only nominal, because always the one that has been the central power imposed his own will, the authorities of each State limiting themselves to be the executing instruments of the orders emanating therefrom.

"Finally, also has been vain the promise of the Constitution of 1857, relative to assuring to the States the republican, representative and popular form of government, since, under cover of this principle, which is likewise fundamental in the system of Federal Government adopted for the entire Nation, the powers of the Center have intermeddled with the interior Administration of a State when its governing agents have not been submissive to their orders, or when there has been left in each Federative Entity an absolute chieftaincy only, as the so-called Administration of the Governors that the Nation has seen in its course has been nothing else

"The history of the country which you have seen in goodly part in these last years, would lend me very abundant data to amply confirm the observations that I have made, but apart from that, you yourselves I am sure will not doubt them at all—because there is no Mexican who does not know all the scandals caused by the flagrant violations of the Constitution of 1857.

"This would demand prolix expositions foreign to the character of a brief narrative and summary of the principal features of the initiative which today I have the honor of placing in your hands, so that you may study it with all the reflection and all the zeal that the Nation expects from you, as the remedy for the needs and trials of so many years.

"In the explanatory part of the decree of the 14th of September of the current year, in which some articles of the additions to the Plan of Guadalupe were modified, issued at Vera Cruz on the 12th of December, 1914, the Government in my charge expressly promised that in the reforms to the Constitution of 1857, which I would initiate before this Congress, there would be preserved intact the liberal spirit of that Constitution and the form of government in it established, that the said reforms would be only to correct that which makes it inapplicable, to supply its deficiencies, to dissipate the obscurity of some of its precepts and to cleanse it from all its reforms that may not have been inspired by other than the idea of being able to make use of it to enthrone the dictatorship.

"I cannot tell you that the project I present to you is a perfect work, since no child of human intelligence may aspire to that much; but, believe me, Honorable Deputies, that the reforms I offer are the children of a sincere conviction, are the fruit of my personal experience and the expression of my profound and vehement desires, so that the Mexican people may reach the enjoyment of all the liberties, the learning and progress that may give them respect abroad and peace and well-being in all domestic matters. I am going to place before you, Honorable Deputies, a synthesis of the reforms to which I have referred, so as to give you a brief and clear idea of the principles that have served me as a guide, for thus you can appreciate whether I have accomplished the object that I have proposed to myself, it remaining for you to duly fulfill your trust. The shielding and protecting of the individual being the object of every Government, or of the diverse unities of which the social aggregate is composed, it is unquestionable that the first requisite a political constitution must fulfill, should be the protection agreed upon, with all the precision and clearness that can be adapted to human liberty, in all the manifestations derived therefrom in a direct and necessary manner, as constitutive of the personality of man.

"The constitution of a people should not, if it is to have a vitality that may assure it a long duration, put artificial limits between the State and the individual, as if an effort were being made to increase the field of the free action of the one and to restrict that of the other, so that that which is given to the one be the condition of the protection of that which is reserved by the other, but the authority that the people grant to their representatives must be looked after, since it is not possible for them to exercise that authority, that it cannot be directed against the society which establishes it, whose rights should remain beyond its reach in the supposition that, not even for a moment, should one lose sight of the fact that the Government must be forcibly and necessarily a means of realizing all the conditions, without which right itself can neither exist nor be developed. And, starting from this concept, which is the primordial one, inasmuch as it is the one that must figure first, marking the end and the object of the institution of government, there will be given to the social institutions their true value, the action of the public pow will be given their exact status, and the habits and social and political customs will result in government proceedings, that up to today could not be placed on a solid foundation, owing to the fact that if the Mexican people have not the belief in a social pact on which may rest all the political organization under the divine origin of a monarch, lord of life and property, they very well understand that the institutions they have, although they proclaim high principles, do not mold themselves to the manner of their feeling and thinking, and that, far from satisfying necessities, they completely lack vitality, dominated, as they have been, by an enervating military despotism and iniquitous exploitations that have driven the most numerous classes to desperation and to ruin.

"Already I have said that the primordial duty of the Government is to facilitate conditions necessary for the organization of rights, or, what is the same, to take care that there be maintained intact all the manifestations of individual liberty, so that the social element may become developed, and at the same time the pacific coexistence of all the activities be secured, accomplishing the nullity of opposing efforts and tendencies in an orderly manner to promote the common end—the happiness of all those in association.

"For this reason, the first thing that the political constitution of a people must do, is to guarantee, in the manner most ample and complete possible, human liberty, so as to avoid the possibility that the Government, on the pretext of order or peace (motives that are always alleged by tyrants for justifying their transgressions) may sometime undertake to limit the rights and not to respect their integral use, attributing to itself the exclusive power of directing individual initiative and social activity, enslaving man and society under its omnipotent will. The Constitution of 1857 made, as I expressed above, the declaration that the rights of man are the basis and the object of all social institutions, but, with few exceptions, did not grant to these rights the guaranty of actuality, neither did it make the secondary laws that punish severely the violation of those rights, for it only fixed insignificant negative penalties which very seldom became effective.

"In this manner, without fear of incurring an exaggeration, it may be said that, in spite of the before-mentioned Constitution, the individual liberty remained completely at the mercy of those governing. The number of transgressions against liberty and their divers manifestations during the period in which the Constitution of 1857 has been in force is surprising. Every day there have been complaints against the abuses and excesses of the authorities from one end of the Republic to the other, and in spite of the generality of the evil and of the disturbances that constantly were occasioned by the judicial authority of the federation, it did not make any efforts to check them, much less to punish them.

"Imagination cannot realize the numberless people requiring assistance on account of consignment to the service of arms, nor the injustices of the political chiefs who were greater than those in charge of maintaining order, the hangmen of the individual and of the societies, and surely they would cause not surprise but astonishment even in those spirits most unconventional and most insensible to human misfortunes, if at this moment could be counted all the illegal proceedings that the federal judicial authority did not wish to, or could not check. The simple declaration of rights is sufficient for a people of high culture in which only the proclamation of a fundamental principle of social and political order is sufficient to impose respect, but it results in an illusory obstacle, where by long tradition and by habitual usage and custom, the authority has been invested with full powers, where it has been attributed powers for everything, and where the people have no other alternative but to keep silent and to obey. To correct that evil, the diverse reforms tend that the Government under my charge proposes in respect to Section First of Title First of the Constitution of 1857; and I nourish the hope that with them and with the severe punishments that the Penal Code may impose for the trampling under foot of individual guaranties, it will result that the agents of the public power will be as they should be, instruments of social security, instead of being what they have been, the oppressors of the people who have had the misfortune of falling into their hands.

"It would be tedious to enumerate one by one all the reforms that in this particular are being proposed in the project that I bring to your knowledge, but let it be permitted to me to speak of some of them, to call in a special manner your attention to the importance they possess.

"Article 14 of the Constitution of 1857, which in the opinion of the Constituents, according to its text and the tenor of the discussions that resulted from it, did no more than to refer to the judgments of the penal order, after many vacillations and contradictatory decisions by the Supreme Court, was ultimately extended to civil judgments, with the result, in accordance with what I have expressed, that the judicial authority of the federation had become converted into a revisor of all the acts of the judicial authorities of the States, whereby the central power, by the suggestion under which the court was always kept, could always interfere with the action of the common tribunals, either by reason of political interest, or to favor the interests of some friend or protege, and owing to the abuse of the appeal there would be the overburdening with labors of the federal judicial authority and the obstructing of the march of the judgments of the common order. In spite of this it should be acknowledged that at the bottom of the tendency to give to Article 1 an undue extension was the great necessity of reducing the judicial power of the States to its just limits, for very soon it was felt that as the judges were converted into blind instruments of the Governors who shamelessly were interfering in subject matters that were completely beyond the reach of their powers, it was becoming necessary to have recourse by appeal to the federal judicial authority to reprimand so many excesses.

"It is so inferred from the reform that was made on the 12th of December, 1908, to Article 102 of the Constitution of 1857, a reform that otherwise was quite far from reaching the object for which it was intended, since it did nothing else than further complicate the mechanism of the judgment by appeal, already in itself intricate and slow, and since the Supreme Court procured the opening of so many breaches to the referred to reforms that in a little time they left it entirely useless.

"The Mexican people are already so accustomed to the appeal from civil judgments in order to free themselves from the arbitrariness of the judges, that the Government in my charge has thought it would be not only unjust, but impolitic to deprive them now of such recourse, considering that it would be enough to limit it only to cases of true and positive necessity, giving it an easy and expeditious proceeding, so that it be effective to enable the Congress to see into the bases that are proposed for its regulation.

"Article 2 of the Constitution of 1857 points out the guarantees that any accused party must have in a criminal proceeding, but in practice those guarantees have been entirely inefficacious, since without literally violating them, side by side with them there have been followed practices truly inquisitorial, which leave as a general rule the accused parties subject to the arbitrary and despotic action of the judges, and even of their agents and secretaries.

"Well known to you, Honorable Deputies, and to the whole Mexican people, are the rigorous solitary confinements prolonged on many occasions for whole months, sometimes in order to punish supposed political offenders, at other times to frighten the unhappy subject under the action of criminal tribunals and compel him to make a forced confession, almost always false, which was only caused by the desire to free himself from his condition in the filthy calaboose in which his health and his life were seriously menaced.

"The criminal proceeding in Mexico has been up to today, with very slight variations, exactly the same as was left established by the Spanish Dominion, without its duress having been tempered in the least, for aside from the Mexican legislation, it has remained entirely as before, without anyone having taken pains to improve it.

"Secret activities and occult proceedings of which the guilty party was not informed, as if they were not dealing with matters concerning his liberty or his life; restrictions of the right of defense, preventing the accused party and his defender from being present before the official receiving proofs against him, as if they were dealing with indifferent acts that in no wise could affect him; and lastly, to leave the fortune of the accused parties almost always at the mercy of the fraudulent and knavish machinations of the secretaries, who through passion or through vile interests, altered the accused parties' own declaration and those of the witnesses that were opposed to him, and even those who presented themselves to testify in his favor.

"The law concedes to the accused party the power of obtaining his liberty under bond during the course of the proceedings, but such a power always remains subject to the arbitrary caprice of the judges, who could deny the favor by merely saying that they feared that the accused party might run away and escape the action of justice.

"Finally, up to today no law has been issued that fixes in a manner clear and precise the maximum duration of penal judgments, which has enabled the judges to detain the accused parties for a time longer than that which the law fixes for the crime with which they are dealing, thus resulting in imprisonments unjustified and entirely arbitrary.

"To remedy all these evils the reforms of Article 20 as cited, tend.

"Article 21 of the Constitution of 1857 gave to the administrative authority the power of imposing as correction up to 500 pesos fine or up to a month's imprisonment, in the cases and modes expressly determined by law, reserving to the judicial authority the exclusive application of the punishment as such.

"This rule opened up a very wide door to abuse, for the administrative authority considered that there were always possibilities of successively imposing at his will, for any imaginary fault, a month of imprisonment—a month that did not end for a long time.

"The reform that is offered in this particular, while it confirms to the judges the exclusive power to impose penalties, only concedes to the administrative authority punishment for the infraction of police regulations, which as a general rule only involves pecuniary fines or penalties, and not imprisonment, which is only imposed when the infractor cannot pay the fine. But the reform does not stop there, because it proposes an innovation that undoubtedly will completely revolutionize the system of procedure which for so long has been in force in the country, in spite of all its imperfections and deficiencies.

"The three branches in force in the federal order as well as in the common order, have adopted the institution of the public Ministry, but such adoption has been nominal, because the function assigned to the representatives of that department has a merely decorative character for the direct and prompt administration of justice.

"The Mexican judges have been during the period which has run from the consummation of independence up to today, the same as the judges of the colonial epoch. They are those in charge of investigating transgressions of law and looking for the proofs, to which effect they have always been authorized to undertake genuine assaults against the accused in order to compel them to confess, which undoubtedly denaturalizes the functions of the judicature.

"All of society remembers with horror the unwarranted proceedings committed by judges who, anxious for renown were desirous with positive gratification that there should come to their hands a process that might permit them to develop a complete system of oppression in many cases, as against innocent persons, and in others, as against the tranquillity and honor of families, not respecting in their inquisitions even the very barriers that law had positively established.

"The same organization of the Public Ministry, at the same time that it will avoid vicious processal system, restoring to the judges all the dignity and all the respectability of the magistracy, will give to the public Ministry all the importance belonging to it, leaving exclusively in its charge the pursuit of delinquencies and the search for the elements for conducting it, which will no longer be done by processes contrary to law and reprobated proceedings and the apprehension of the delinquents.

"On the other hand, the Public Ministry, with the restrictive judicial police at its disposal, will take from the Municipal Presidents, and from the common police, the possibility that up to today they have had of apprehending any persons they might judge suspicious with no other right than their personal criterion.

"With the institution of the Public Ministry, as it is offered, individual liberty will remain assured, because according to Article 16 no one can be detained except by order of the judicial authority, which cannot be issued except under terms and with the requisites that said article prescribes.

"Article 27 of the Constitution of 1857 empowers the taking possession of the property of persons without their consent, and previous indemnification, when it is thus exacted by public utility. This power is in the judgment of the Government in my charge, sufficient to acquire lands and to distribute them in the manner it may be deemed fit, among the people who may want to devote themselves to agricultural labors, thus founding the small properties that must be developed in the measure that public necessity may require.

"The only reform which, by reason of this article, is offered, is that the declaration of utility be made by the corresponding administrative authority, there remaining only to the judicial authority the power of intervening for fixing the just value of the property in regard to which expropriation is being dealt with. The article in question, besides leaving in force the prohibition of the laws of reform on the capacity of civil and ecclesiastical corporations to acquire real estate, establishes also the incapacity of corporations, civil and commercial, for possessing and administering real estate, excepting from such incapacity the institutions of public beneficence and limiting them to that real estate which is strictly essential and which may be utilized in an immediate and direct manner in aid of the object of said institutions, empowering them to enjoy the proceeds of the said real estate, which shall not be greater, in any case, than that which may be fixed as legal and for a term not to exceed ten years. The necessity of this reform is manifest, for no one is ignorant of the fact that the clergy, incapacitated from acquiring real estate, has evaded the prohibition of the law, hiding behind corporations, and, as on the other hand, these associations have undertaken in the Republic the enterprise of acquiring great extension of territory, it becomes necessary to impose on this evil a prompt and efficacious corrective, because otherwise the national territory would not be long in passing away, in fact or in a fictitious manner, into the hands of foreigners.

"On the other hand, you are consulted about the necessity that any foreigner, upon acquiring real estate in the country, shall expressly renounce his nationality, as regards said property, submitting as regards himself in relation to said property in a complete and absolute manner, to the Mexican laws, a thing which would not be easy to obtain in regard to associations, who, on the other hand, constitute, as has just been mentioned, a serious menace of monopolization of the territorial property of the Republic.

"Finally, the Article in question establishes the express prohibition that the institutions of private beneficence may be in charge of religious corporations and of the ministers of the cult, for otherwise the doors to abuse would be newly open. With these reforms to Article 27, to the end of efficaciously combatting monopolies and to insure in all branches of human activity the free competition which is indispensable to insure life and the development of the peoples, and with the power which, in the reform of Section 20 of Article 72, is conferred, the federal legislative body will have power to issue laws on labor, in which there shall be implanted all the institutions of social progress in favor of the working class and of all the laborers, with the limitations of the number of hours of labor, so that the laborer does not exhaust his energies, but may have time for rest and relaxation and to attend to the cultivation of his mind, so that he may frequent the society of his neighbors, which engenders sympathy and determines habits of cooperation for the success of the common work; as to the responsibilities of the employers in cases of accident, with the insurance for cases of illness and of old age, with a scale of a minimum salary sufficient to provide for the primordial necessities of the individual and of the family, and for assuring and bettering his situation, as also the law of divorce, which has been enthusiastically received by the diverse social classes as a means of founding the family upon the ties of love and not upon the fragile basis of interest and pecuniary convenience.

"With the laws that soon will be issued for establishing the family on bases more rational and more just, that may raise the couple to the high mission which society and nature place in their charge, to protect the species and found the family—with all these reforms, I repeat, the government in my charge has full reason to expect that the political institutions of the country will become restored satisfactorily to the social necessities, and that these, united to the protecting guarantee of individual liberty, will be an effective fact and not mere unaccomplishable promises, and that the division among the diverse branches of the public power will have immediate realization; will found the Mexican democracy, or the government of the people of Mexico by the spontaneous, efficacious and conscious cooperation of all the individuals that may form it, who will look for well-being in the kingdom of law, in the empire of justice, insuring that these be the same for all men; that it may defend all the legitimate interests and that it may shield all noble aspirations.

"In the reform of Article 30 of the Constitution of 1857, it has been thought necessary to define, with all precision and clearness, who are Mexican citizens by birth and who have that quality by naturalization, to put an end to the long dispute that in epochs not remote had been maintained as to whether the son of a foreigner born in the country, who, upon reaching his majority, chooses Mexican citizenship, should be considered, or not, as a Mexican by birth.

"Upon defending the forms of Articles 35 and 36 of the Constitution of 1857, there was presented the old and very much debated question whether the active vote should be conceded to all citizens, without any exception whatsoever, or whether, on the contrary, it should be granted only to those who have the aptitude for giving it in an efficacious manner and because of their learning, or because of their economic situation, that would give them a greater interest in the conduct of the public welfare.

"In order that the exercise of the right of suffrage be a true and positive manifestation of the national sovereignty, it is indispensable that it be general, equal to all, free and direct; because, when lacking any of these conditions, it either converts itself into a class prerogative, or is a mere artifice to dissimulate usurpations of power, or gives as a result impositions by the governing class as against the clear and manifest will of the people.

"From this it is to be inferred that suffrage being essentially a collective function, since it is an indispensable condition to retain the exercise of sovereignty, that it should be granted to all the members of the social body who could understand the interest and the value of that highest function.

"This would authorize one to conclude that the electoral right should only be granted to those individuals who might have a full consciousness of the high finality to which it tends; which would exclude, therefore, those who through their ignorance, their carelessness or indifference, might be incapable of duly discharging that function; comparing in a spontaneous and efficacious manner to the government of the people by the people, in spite of this, and not failing to recognize what, as it has just been explained is a theoretical truth, there are in the case of Mexico historical factors or antecedents that compel the acceptance of a solution distinct from that which logically would be inferred from the principles of political science.

"The Revolution that was directed by the chiefs who raised the banner at Ayutla had for its object to put an end to the military dictatorship and to the oppression by the classes in whom public wealth was concentrated; and as that Revolution was made by the inferior classes, by the ignorant and the oppressed, the Constitution of 1857, which was its result, could not rationally fail to concede to all, without distinction, the right of suffrage, since it would have been a matter of inconsequence to deny to the people all the advantages of their triumph.

"The Revolution that it has been my fortune to direct has had also as an object the destroying of the military dictatorship, destroying completely its roots, and the giving to the Nation of all the conditions of life necessary for its development, and as the ignorant classes have been those who most have suffered, because they are the ones upon whom have weighed in all its crudeness the cruel despotism and insatiable exploitation, it would be, I would not dare to say a simple inconsequence, but an unpardonable deceit to take away from them today that which they had previously conquered.

"The Government in my charge considers therefore that it would be impolitic and inopportune at this moment, after a great popular revolution, to restrict the suffrage, by exacting, in order to grant it, the only condition that rationally can be asked, which is that all the citizens should possess primary instruction sufficient that they may know the importance of the electoral function and that they may discharge it for the benefit of society.

"In spite of this, in the reform that I have the honor to submit to you with reference to the electoral right, I leave to your consideration the suspension of the quality of the Mexican citizen, to anyone who may not know how to make a proper use of citizenship.

"He who sees with indifference the affairs of the Republic, whatever his learning or economic situation may be, shows very clearly the little interest he has in it, and this indifference merits that he should be deprived of the prerogative of which this treats.

"The Government in my charge believes that in the constant vehemence demonstrated by the inferior classes of the Mexican people to obtain a well-being that up to today has been lacking, they are amply deserving, so that when the moment arrives for selecting rulers, they may have in mind those who inspire in them the most confidence for representing them in the management of public affairs.

"On the other hand, the Government which emanated from the Revolution, and this is well known through the entire Republic, has had positive eagerness in diffusing instruction throughout social circles of every class, and I have good foundation for my belief that the impulse given not only will be continued but will also be intensified each day, in order to make of the Mexicans a cultured people, capable of understanding their high destiny, and of lending to the Government of the Nation a cooperation so solid and efficacious that it may make impossible, on the one hand, anarchy, and on the other dictatorship.

"The independent municipality, that is without question one of the great conquests of the Revolution, being, as it is, the base of free government, a conquest that will not only give political liberty to municipal life, but that will also give economic independence, assuming that they will have funds and resources of their own for supplying all their necessities, thus withdrawing the insatiable voracity that ordinarily has been shown by the governors, and a good electoral law that will keep them (the governors) entirely away from the public vote, and that may punish with all severity all attempts toward its violation, will be established by the electoral power on a rational basis, that will permit them to fulfill their duties in a quite acceptable manner.

"On the organization of the Electoral Power, with which the next Constitutional Congress will occupy itself in a preferential manner, will depend, in great part, that the Legislative Power be not a mere instrument of the Executive Power, for their representatives being elected by the people, without the least intervention from the central power, they will have Chambers that will truly devote themselves to the interests of the people, and not oppressive and disturbing coteries who only are seeking eagerly for lucre and personal gain.

"Because one should not lose sight of the fact, not even for a moment, that the best institutions fall and are a dead letter when they are not put into practice, and when they only serve, as I have said before and I repeat now, to cover with the mantle of legality the imposition of those in power, against the will of the Nation.

"The division of the branches of the Public Power is obedient to, as I expressed above, the fundamental idea of putting precise limitations to the actions of the representatives of the Nation, to the end of avoiding that they exercise, with injury to the Nation, the power conferred upon them. Therefore there is not only the unavoidable necessity of pointing out to each department a well defined sphere, but also there is the necessity of relating them to each other, so that the one does not overstep the rights of the other, and that conflicts or clashes may not be incited among themselves, that could obstruct the march of public business and even reach the point of altering the order and peace of the Republic.

"The Legislative Power, that by the very nature of its functions tends always to intervene in the powers of the others, was endowed, in the Constitution of 1857, with powers that permitted it to disturb or make embarrassing and difficult the progress of the Executive Power, or otherwise to subject it to the capricious will of an easily-formed majority, in epochs of agitation, in which bad passions and illicit interests regularly predominate. Directed to obtain that end, various reforms are proposed of which the principal one is to take away from the Chamber of Representatives the power of judging the President of the Republic and the other high functionaries of the Federation, a power that was, no doubt, the cause of originating, in the past, dictatorships that always procured servile representatives whom they managed as automata.

"The Legislative Power has unquestionably the right and the duty of inspecting the progress of all the acts of the Government, to the end of properly fulfilling their trust, by taking the measures they may judge convenient so as to normalize its action, but the investigation must not be informative merely for judging of the necessity or unrighteousness of a Legislative measure, except when it affects a merely judicial character. The reform gives authority to the Chambers as well as to the Executive Power in order to move the Supreme Court so that it may commission one or some of its members, or a Magistrate of the Circuit Court, or a judge of the District Court, or a committee named by it, to open up the corresponding investigation, only for clearing up the fact that is desired to be known, a thing that unquestionably the members of Congress could not do, who (members of Congress) ordinarily will have to conform themselves to the reports that the inferior authorities might want to render them.

"This is the opportunity, Honorable Deputies, for touching a question that is almost certain to be brought up among yourselves, since in the last years there has been discussion with the object of making acceptable a certain system of Government which is recommended as infallible on the one side, against the dictatorship, and on the other, against anarchy. Between such extremes the L
American people have been constantl
cillating since their independence,

"The Parliamentary Regime. I
it not only convenient, but indispe
to tell you, although it be briefl

reasons I have had for not accepting this said system among the reforms that I bring to your knowledge.

"Tocqueville observed in the study of the history of the peoples of America of Spanish origin, that these peoples go toward anarchy when they get tired of obeying, and towards a dictatorship when they get tired of disobeying . . . or they get tired of destroying, considering that this oscillation between order and violence is the fatal law that has governed and will govern for a long time the mentioned peoples. . . .

"The referred to statesman did not say which would be, in his judgment, the means of freeing one's self from that curse, a thing that would have been to him entirely easy by only observing the antecedents of the phenomenon, and of the circumstances in which it always has been reproduced. . . . The Latin-American peoples, whilst they were dependencies of Spain, had been governed by an iron hand; there was no other will than that of the Viceroy. There existed no rights for the vassals. He who altered order, either advancing untenable theories or simply undermining the foundations of faith or of authority, or else trying to give pabulum to rebellion, had no other door of escape than the gallows. . . . When the struggles for independence broke the ties that bound those peoples to the metropolis, dazzled by the grandeur of the French Revolution, they took to themselves all their regained possessions without thinking that they had no men to guide them in such an arduous task, and that they were not prepared for it. The customs of government are not imposed during a night. To be free, it is not sufficient to wish it, but it is necessary to know how to be so. . . . The peoples treated of have required and still need strong governments, capable of keeping in order undisciplined peoples, ready at any moment and with the most futile pretext to overflow themselves, committing all kinds of misbehavior. But unfortunately in that particular one has fallen into confusion and for a strong government there has been taken a despotic government—a dismal error that has fomented all sorts of ambition among the superior classes, in order to be able to take possession of the direction of public affairs. In general there has always existed the belief that order cannot be preserved without overstepping the law, and this and no other is the cause of the fatal law of which Tocqueville speaks, because the dictatorship never will produce order as darkness cannot produce light. So, therefore, let error be dissipated; let the people be taught that it is not possible that they enjoy their liberty if they do not know how to make use of it, or, what is the same, that liberty has as one condition—order—and that without this order, the other, Liberty, is impossible. Let the government of the Latin-American nations be constructed on this basis, and the problem will have been solved.

"In Mexico, from its independence up to today, of the legal governments which have existed, some few have attached themselves to this principle, as that of Jaurez, and for that reason they could go forward. The other ones, as those of Guerrero and Madero, had to perish for not having fulfilled it. They wanted to impose order by teaching the law, and failure was the result.

"If, on the one hand, the government must respect the law and the institutions, on the other hand it must be inexorable with the subverters of order and with the enemies of society. Only thus can nations be sustained and be directed towards progress.

"The Constituents of 1857 conceived a good Executive Power, free in its sphere of action to develop its policy without more limitation than to respect the law, but they did not complete the thought, because they took from the Executive Power prestige, making the election of the President an immediate matter, and so his election was not the work of the will of the people, but the product of the fraudulent combinations of the electoral colleges.

"The direct election of the President, and the non-reelection, that were the conquests obtained by the Revolution of 1910, no doubt gave strength to the government of the Nation, and the reforms that I now propose will crown the work. The President will no longer remain at the mercy the Legislative Power, neither will it le easily to invade his sphere. the President is designated directly by the people, and is in constant contact with them by means of respect to their liberties, by ample and effective participation in the public business, by the prudent conciliation of the diverse social classes and by the development of legitimate interests, the President will indispensably be supported by the people themselves against attempts of the invading Chambers, as well as against invasions from the pretorians (chiefs or leaders). The Government will then be just and strong; then the fatal law of Tocqueville will have ceased from having application.

"Now, then, what is it that is pretended by the theory of Parliamentarian Government? Nothing less is wanted than to take away from the President his governing powers, so that Congress may exercise them by means of a commission from its body, called a 'Cabinet.' In other words, the effort is being made to have the personal President disappear, he remaining a decorative figure. Where would then be the power of the government? In the Parliament—and as this, in its quality of a deliberative body, is ordinarily inept for administration—the Government would always move groping in the dark, fearful at each moment of being censured.

"Parliamentarism is comprehended as a point for discussion, and in Spain, it has signified a conquest over the ancient absolute power of Kings. It is understood in France, because this nation, in spite of its republican standard of government, is always influenced by its monarchical antecedents. But amongst us it would not have any antecedents, and it would be at the least imprudent to hurl ourselves towards the experience of a feeble government, when it is so easy to make it strong and to consolidate the system of government of a personal President, which was left to us by the Constituents of 1857.

"On the other hand, the parliamentary regime presupposes forcibly and necessarily two or more political parties, perfectly organized, and a considerable number of men in each one of those parties, among whom may frequently be distributed the governmental functions.

"Now, then, as we are still lacking the two conditions to which I have just referred, the government would not find itself constantly in the difficulty of completing the cabinet, to respond to the frequent departmental crises.

"As I understand, the parliamentary regime has not given a lesser result in the few Latin-American countries wherein it has been adopted; but to me the most evident proof that it is not a system of government from which one can expect great advantages, is that the United States of the North, who have established in their democratic institutions the said system of a personal President, have not yet thought of the parliamentary regime, which means that they do not concede to it a practical value of any kind.

"In my judgment, the most sensible, the most prudent and at the same time the most conformable with our political antecedents, and that which will save us from making trials with the adoption of foreign systems, suitable to peoples of culture, of origin different from our own, is—I shall not tire of repeating it—to construct the government of the Republic, scrupulously respecting that deep tendency to liberty, to equality, and to the security of their rights. that the Mexican people desire. Because the facts should not be lost sight of, but on the contrary we should have constantly in mind that nations, in such measure as they become more advanced, feel more and more the necessity of taking their own direction, so as to be able to preserve and to enlarge their life by giving to all the social elements the complete enjoyment of their rights, and, among all the advantages that result from that enjoyment, the powerful apogee of the individual initiative. This social progress is the basis upon which political progress should be established, because the people are very easily persuaded that the least constitutional arrangement is the one which protects the most the development of the individual and social life, founded on the complete possession of the liberties of the individual under the inevitable condition that this may not take away any right from the others.

"You already know, Honorable Deputies, the reform that the Government in my charge recently made to Articles 78, 80, 81 and 82 of the Federal Constitution, by suppressing the Vice-Presidency and establishing a new system for substituting the President of the Republic in the temporal deficiencies as well as in those which are absolute; and although in the expositive part of the respective right the motives of the said reform were explained, I believe it nevertheless convenient to call your attention to that particular.

"The Vice-Presidency, which in other countries has succeeded in entering into the customs and has rendered very good service, among us, by a series of unfortunate circumstances, has come to have so lamentable a history, that instead of assuring the presidential succession in a pacific manner in an unexpected case, it did nothing else than to debilitate the government of the Republic, and in effect, whether it be that when that institution has been in force, it may by chance have happened that the designation of Vice-President may have fallen on men unscrupulous although of excessive ambition, or be it that the lack of democratic customs and the little or no honesty of those who do not seek in politics useful cooperation with the Government of their country but who seek only the means of obtaining questionable advantages with notorious injury to the public interests, the fact is that the Vice-President, wishing it or without pretending it, at least in this case, was converted into the focus of the opposition, into the center where converged and from which irradiated all the ill-will and all the hostilites against the person in whose charge was the Supreme Power of the Republic.

"The Vice-Presidency in Mexico has presented the spectacle of a functionary trying to overthrow from his post the President of the Republic as useless or as the violator of the law; and of another functionary in order to substitute him in his post, bringing about his downfall, himself remaining in the post without an enemy to face him. During the last periods of the government of General Diaz, the Vice-President of the Republic was only a confederate, as the means devised by the "cientificismo" should the case arise that he fail, to preserve the power in favor of all the group who already had it monopolized.

"The manner of substituting the President of the Republic, adopted in the system established by the reforms to which I have made reference, in my judgment is satisfactory. It is a good policy to avoid the agitation which always takes place as a result of the electoral struggles, that put into motion great masses of interests which agitate themselves around the possible candidates. The system of substituting the presidential vacancy of the Republic by means of the Secretaries of State, calling them in conformity with the order the law gives them, establishes them simply at the will of the President of the Republic, who thus has the designating of his successor.

"The system adopted by the Government under my charge will not encounter any of those difficulties, since the person who conforms to it must supply the temporary or absolute vacancy of the President of the Republic; it will have a truly popular origin, since the members of the Congress of the Union, being legitimate representatives of the people, will receive with the mandate of their electors, providing the case arises, the charge of President of the Republic.

"Another reform the importance and transcendency of which I wish, Honorable Deputies, to call to your attention, is that which tends to secure the complete independence of the judicial power, a reform that, the same as the one that has modified the duration of the term of President of the Republic, clearly reveals the well-known honesty and decided earnestness with which the Government emanating from the Revolution is carrying out the program proclaimed at Vera Cruz on the 12th of December, 1914, on the supposition that one of the most ardent and honorably felt desires of the Mexican people is that of having independent tribunals which may cause to be effective the individual guarantees against the illegal proceedings and excesses of the agents of Public Power, and that may protect the quiet and peaceful enjoyment of civil rights, which up to today have been lacking. Honorable Deputies, I shall not fatigue your attention any longer, since long and tiresome would be the task of speaking to you of the other reforms which the project contains, which I have the honor of placing in your hands—reforms all tending to insure public liberties by means of the empire of law, to guarantee the rights of all Mexicans by the functioning of justice, administered by upright and able men, and to call the people to participate in all ways possible in administrative affairs.

"The Government in my charge believes they have fulfilled their labor in the measure of their strength, and if in it they have not obtained all the success that might be desirable, this must be attributed to the fact that the enterprise is highly difficult and exacts constant attention, which it has been impossible to devote to it, occupied as I have been constantly by the multiple difficulties to which I have had to attend.

"It behooves you now to crown the work, to the execution of which I hope you will devote yourselves with all the faith, with all the ardor, and with all the enthusiasm that your country expects from you, which has placed her hopes in you and awaits the moment in which you may give to her institutions which are wise and just."

Upon ending his report, Señor Carranza was applauded for several minutes.

Following the address of the First Chief, the President of Congress, Licenciado Señor Rojas, read his speech, as follows:

"First Chief in Charge of the Executive Power of the Union:

"The Constituent Congress, over which I have the honor to preside, has listened with profound attention to the message which you have just read, and in which has been delineated in such a clear manner the political and social principles which have served to guide you in making the various reforms which are indispensable for adapting the Constitution of 1857 to the deepest necessities and the new aspirations of the Mexican people.

"You are right, Sir, in considering that among the great and legitimate satisfactions you have had during your already long struggle against the government of usurpation, and for the liberties and welfare of the Mexicans, even of those most humble, the experience of this moment surpasses all, on coming before the national representation to give compliance to one of the solemn promises made by you from Vera Cruz in the name of the Revolution.

"The high sentiments which your message contains are impregnated with the seal of your personality, with the ardor of your conviction, and with the fruit of your experience, and they make public not only to the Mexican Republic but to the entire world, that you also are a great apostle of the public liberties and the most decided and intelligent champion of Mexican democracy.

"You are Sir, perhaps the man that during several years has gathered in his hands the absolute and vigorous powers of this country; and when to the exercise of these enormous powers has given the occasion to our enemies, in the interior as well as abroad, for presaging that you would not easily resign those powers, you today come to declare, in the most frank and sincere manner, and at the same time the most spontaneous, that the fundamental principle upon which the new Constitution of the Republic must be established is the most ample respect for human liberty, proclaiming very highly besides the right of the people to govern themselves, at the precise time when you find yourself at the most elevated summit of power and glory, where the temptations of ambition and the suggestions of egoism exercise, ordinarily, an influence as pernicious as it is difficult, and that only with this principle and with this support can it be strong, in order to impose order in the interior and to secure consideration and respect from abroad.

"Therefore, the hope has not been vain that the Mexican people have placed in you. They have followed you enthusiastically and affectionately from the month of March, 1913, and have considered you as a saviour in the various phases of the heroic struggle you have sustained up to this day, and tomorrow will proclaim you, lastly, as the greatest statesman who could make free institutions in Mexico effective.

"It would be almost impossible, Sir, that I should refer at this moment to all the notable points of your very important general project of reforms to the present Constitution, or to the diverse principles that with so much forcibleness as well as clearness you invoke in your speech, in order to defend the reforms that you propose, after painting with a master hand how the precepts proclaimed in the law of 1857, in spite of its unquestionable theoretical value, have resulted in practice entirely fruitless because they have not served for the establishing of a government truly respectful of the rights of man, nor either for organizing all the social elements, by harmonizing them and making them cooperate for the common happiness; that is to say, by avoiding anarchy, which consists in that social state where the man remains apt to be moved by his own and egotistical interest, without paying heed to anything as regards the respect he owes to the rights of others. So that, Sir, I limit myself now to having received the project of reforms to the Constitution of 1857.

"And I can assure you, that each and every one of the representative citizens who are forming this Constituent Congress, is animated with the very highest desire for responding to the mission that the people have commended to us, and that, as you expect, we shall aid you in your labors with all zeal and patriotism, satisfied with having had the glory of being united with you in the grand work of national reconstruction."

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· OF · THE ·
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GOVERNOR GUSTAVO ESPINOSA MIRELES OF THE STATE OF COAHUILA

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PROGRESSIVE COAHUILA

What Has Been Accomplished by Governor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles in Carrying Out the Pledges of the Revolution

AMONG the typical representatives of the "Young Mexico" which is doing so much to reconstruct that country and to carry out the reforms that were pledged by the Constitutionalists, one of the most prominent is Señor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles, Governor of the State of Coahuila. He is a young man, as his photograph indicates, and his native State is the one over which he presides, the capital city, Saltillo, having been his birthplace. He joined the Revolution at its inception, being one of the noble and notable band of young men who literally took their lives in their hands when they allied themselves under the banner of Governor Carranza in the then seemingly hopeless task of antagonizing a power that had complete control of the machinery of the government, the resources of war, and the support of foreign powers with but one exception of importance.

In those early days of 1913, when Carranza had but a handful of men, the now Governor Mireles was at his right hand and performed services of incalculable value. A lawyer by education, well read, active, intelligent and above all else patriotic, besides being of the most pleasing personality, it is safe to say that no other one man with the exception of the First Chief himself did more than he toward the final success of the Revolution. A volume might be filled with the stirring events in which he played a prominent and responsible part, but it is sufficient to say that when peace was finally restored in his native State he was chosen as one best fitted by birth, education and ability to undertake the carrying out within the boundaries of that commonwealth of the pledges which had been the basis of the movement. He was accordingly detached from the post he had long and successfully held as Private Secretary of the Chief and sent to Coahuila as Governor of that State.

From an extended account of the various reforms and improvements undertaken and carried out under his instruction and management THE REVIEW summarizes the following:

Coahuila is the second largest State in the Republic, its northern boundary being the Rio Grande, and because of its situation and its vast mineral and agricultural wealth, has been one of the chief centers of development by foreign capital.

Recognizing the necessity of educating the masses of his fellow countrymen as a preliminary to the establishment of a really democratic form of government, Governor Mireles addressed himself at once to the school problem. A congress of instructors was called and at their suggestion a comprehensive educational plan was adopted which is now being carried out, notably in the training of teachers for the schools that have already been and still are to be established in every corner of the vast State. Every branch of instruction is provided for, physical and manual training, domestic science, and all the modern methods for the education not only of the young but of adults as well.

A system of local boards of education, with a central organization at Saltillo, was established, which deals with all questions as they arise. A certain portion of the municipal taxes in each town is set aside for educational purposes, which is supplemented when needed by the State. Religious instruction of any kind in the public schools is absolutely prohibited, it being considered that the experience of the country in this direction in the past and the present lamentable condition of so large a portion of the lower classes is in no small part due to the practices that are now abolished.

In centers of population such as mines, railroad headquarters, etc., where many men are employed regularly during the day, night schools have been established for the education of adults, and these have become very popular, being largely attended. It has been demonstrated in Coahuila as elsewhere that there is a general desire for education among the masses, as indicated by the attendance at night and industrial school by adults of both sexes.

Since Governor Mireles took charge of the State Government there have been many schools established in all portions of the commonwealth, even in the most remote sections, and it is his announced determination not to permit any one in the State to be without the means of education at his door.

Next to the question of education the welfare of the working class has been given full consideration, the result being the promulgation and enforcement of a Labor Law that is a model. Some of its principal features are given elsewhere, and the entire document is well worth perusal, going as it does into minute details and conserving carefully the interests of both employe and employer.

In many other directions Governor Mireles has shown his activity and desire for the advancement of his State and nation, as well as a thorough comprehension of the needs of his country and his intention to do all within his power in that direction.

Among other notable projects for the benefit of the State that he has inaugurated is the construction of a railway from Saltillo eastward toward the Gulf of Mexico. It is proposed at first to build about one hundred miles, penetrating a very rich agricultural, mineral and timber region, which has been prevented from development by lack of transportation facilities but which will prove a source of great wealth when the road is opened. In time it is intended to extend the line into the Tampico oil district and to a gulf outlet.

Through the efforts of Governor Mireles railroad repair shops were some time ago established in Saltillo, thereby giving employment to a large number of men.

The liquor question has also received his attention and a decree was issued several months ago establishing a monthly tax of $600 to $1600 on all manufactories of alcoholic beverages according to size, a tax of $200 to $1200 monthly on all manufacturers of wines, and a tax of $200 to $1200 monthly on all places where liquor of any kind is sold. More recently a decree was promulgated closing all saloons and places where liquor was sold in all mining camps throughout the State.

Instructions were issued by the Governor before the first of the present year to the Presidents of all municipalities under his control to include in their estimates for the coming year sufficient to maintain public education, health and hygiene, to give effective guarantees and facilities for all branches of agriculture, commerce and industry, to encourage the establishment of all forms of enterprise, and to inaugurate various public improvements in a liberal and democratic manner, in order that the purpose of the revolution to alleviate the condition of the common people shall be carried out.

There was a general resumption of activities throughout the State soon after Governor Mireles took charge. Traffic was resumed on the Coahuila and Pacific Railroad, connecting Torreon and Saltillo, and passing through a rich section. This line had not been in use for more than two years, it having been put out of commission by the various military forces that have controlled this portion of the State of Coahuila during the revolutionary years.

Most of the coal mines resumed operations by the fall of 1916—some of them never having shut down throughout the revolutionary troubles. The employes are being paid their earnings in silver and gold coin, which proves a very satisfactory solution of the currency and wage questions.

The School of Arts and Crafts that was established in Saltillo has given notice that it is prepared to execute all classes of work—iron and wood products, tailoring, printing, etc.—and the public is asked to patronize the institution in order that if possible it may be made self-supporting.

Inspectors of Agriculture have been appointed in the various municipalities, whose duty it is to examine into conditions and give necessary advice and instructions in order that the best methods may be followed for securing proper returns for the farmers.

Under the advice of the Governor, the operations of the "Finance Commission of the Laguna" have been extended to all portions of the State named, in order that all farmers so desiring may secure the necessary financial aid for the proper operation of their holdings, that being the object of the commission.

A comprehensive system of municipal improvement has been carried out in Saltillo and elsewhere under the new regime, including the opening of new streets, the laying of new pavements, the installation of water and sewerage systems, and the general improvement of sanitary conditions.

The Department of Labor of the State Government has been asked to supply hundreds of men for the reopening of various mines in that section, the supply being very scarce. The wages offered are good and all employes are supplied with food at cost.

Preparations are being made by Governor Mireles to establish jury trials in the State, and it is expected his example will be followed generally throughout the Republic.

The second Congress of Educators in the State was called to meet in Saltillo on February 10th. Special subjects for discussion as announced were programs of study for rural schools and also for night schools in the city.

It may be added that in his position as Private Secretary to the First Chief, and since then as Governor of a border State, more foreigners have come into personal relations with him than almost any other official connected with the Constitutionalist Government, and without exception all have been charmed with his personality and manner, his promptness in comprehending the most intricate matters, and his readiness to undertake and carry out all affairs within his province, even to the most minute details.

Governor Mireles is a candidate for election at the coming canvass under the amended Constitution and will undoubtedly be chosen, as he is very popular with the people on account of his labors in their behalf.

THE LABOR LAW OF COAHUILA

Comprehensive and Just Regulation of Hours, Conditions, Pay and Indemnification for Sickness or Accident

GOV. GUSTAVO ESPINOSA MIRELES of the State of Coahuila, one of the most intelligent, enterprising and far-seeing of the young men who are the leaders of the Revolution, who constitute the "Young Mexico" that is regenerating that country in so many respects, has established a very minute and comprehensive series of regulations for the conduct of the labor question in that State. THE REVIEW hoped to be able to give this law verbatim, but in the lack of the complete text thereof publishes some of the most salient points.

The law is based upon the principle of guarding the rights of both employers and employed, and more especially of the latter, which in the past have been practically if not wholly disregarded. Neither class is to be permitted to profit unreasonably at the expense of the other, but justice and equality are the foundation for the regulations that are now in force.

The maximum day's work and the minimum salary are basic principles, bearing in mind the right of all workers to have sufficient time for rest, for enjoyment and for self-improvement.

Contracts for labor are limited to three years' duration and must be made directly with the laborer, none being legal that are made with agents or intermediaries. They may be verbal or in writing, with the proviso that a contract with any one under 18 years of age must be in writing. All privileges granted to any worker must be equal with all, no preference being permitted.

All contracts must specify exactly the character of the work and the mode of compensation —whether by day or hour, or by the piece or task. The exact locality of the labor must be specified within a distance of five kilometers (three miles) from the place where the laborer resides. Laborers cannot be required to carry with them and exhibit on demand certificates or cards of identification. All that is necessary is a certificate showing the time of engaging in employment, the time of termination and the character of the labor agreed upon.

Employers are required to provide the best hygienic and health conditions for all employes. They must take all precautions to prevent accidents in the use of machines or materials, and must keep at hand all the necessary medical supplies and appliances for rendering first aid to any injured. They must pay punctually the indemnifications for accident or illness. They are not allowed to make any discrimination because of nationality among the employes either as to wages, conditions or in any other manner. Abundant food must be provided for those who live with their employers. Employes cannot be obliged to live in the houses provided by employers in case they care to occupy others. Employers must provide means for maintaining all tools and implements in good condition and cannot demand indemnification from the employe for their being otherwise without his fault.

When an employe is working by the piece, he must be paid for time lost through the fault of the employer during his presence in the establishment.

Every employe is required to submit to the instructions of the employer or his agent in all matters pertaining to the work. He must work with all intensity and comply with all rules of the establishment. He must abstain from any act that infringes upon the safety of the property or that of his fellow workers, and must observe good customs at all times. He must return to the employer all unused materials and tools, subject to natural deterioration from use. The laborer who is assigned to positions of danger must be recompensed acccordingly.

All employes must respect the professional secrets of the employer and not disclose them, and no one can be held responsible for faulty products due to the imperfect quality of the materials furnished.

The legal day's work for ordinary employment shall not exceed eight hours, whether in factories or mines, or in other occupations. In public offices and mercantile establishments the day's work shall not exceed nine hours. For employment at night the Department of Labor will regulate the hours for those interested, in accord with them. The day's work shall begin the moment the laborer presents himself in the establishment and shall cease the moment labor is suspended. There shall not be counted in the day's work the time necessary to go to meals nor any period of rest. In case suspension of work causes grave danger to others or would be damaging, the hours may be increased three more than the legal limit, but this must not be done for more than sixty days in any one year.

Children under twelve shall not be employed. For minors between twelve and eighteen years of age the day's work shall in no case exceed six hours. In no case can the services of such minors be required in excess of that limit. For every six days there must be one day of rest. In case of necessity some other day may be given for rest, but as a rule Sunday shall be observed for that purpose. Besides the regular weekly rest day the first day of May and the sixteenth day of September shall be observed for rest.

In every establishment the rules governing employment shall be posted in some prominent place and any employe desiring a copy thereof must be supplied. These rules must cover all details of hours of labor, payment, and every detail possible for the proper guidance of employes. No rules may be established that are in any way contrary to the law.

The regulations governing the voluntary abandonment of employment by the worker or his dismissal by the employer are very minute and intended for the just protection of each against any act of the other that is unwarranted.

Collective bargaining is also provided for in minute detail, covering all possible contingencies and protecting the rights of both parties. In fact the entire voluminous law is very careful in this respect, not favoring one at the expense of the other.

The form and conditions for the participation in the profits of any establishment shall be in accord with the provisions of the contract, with the regulations of the business or with the statutes covering that purpose. Such participation for any one year shall not establish the presumption for a following year. In no case shall employes and laborers participate in the losses, and the losses of any year shall not be deducted from the gains of the following year. The employes shall appoint a representative to examine the accounts and determine the correctness of the reports as to profits or losses.

The Municipal President of the town wherein a factory is situated, or in default of such official a representative appointed by the Department of Labor, shall receive all complaints and shall use all diligence to see that the laws and regulations are obeyed in detail. In cases of complaint proof shall be submitted and both sides shall give their testimony upon the matter in dispute. All possible endeavor shall be made to reconcile the parties by arbitration, and in case of failure to do so the matter shall be referred to the civil tribunals.

The establishment of "tiendas de raya," saloons or other places for the sale of goods under the ownership of the employers is absolutely prohibited, as also under the ownership or management of any one having authority over the employes. This is in order to remedy one of the oldest and worst abuses to which the laboring classes were formerly subjected. Violations of this section of the law are punishable by fine of $200 to $1000, by arrest, and by the summary closure of the establishment.

There are excepted from this law such establishments as the employes may inaugurate for furnishing supplies, and in such cases all goods must be sold at cost and a list of prices exhibited in a conspicuous place.

As stated, the foregoing is only fragmentary, THE REVIEW not having received the complete text of the law, and is given merely to show the principal features thereof. It is intended at an early date to publish the decree in its entirety, as it is typical of what is being done in this direction throughout the entire Republic.

Formation of Laborers' Colonies

THERE has been presented to the Secretary of the Interior, by the Director of Public Works, Engineer Ignacio de la Hidalgo, an extensive project for the establishment of laborers' colonies at various points around the capital. The plans for the execution of the project in question are based on methods followed in Europe, and of which he has made a conscientious study.

The foundation of laborers' colonies in the capital is entirely new in Mexico, and tends to the betterment of the living conditions of the working classes, which are at present very inadequate, causing sickness and epidemics, on account of the crowded conditions under which they live in the poorer districts.

The idea contained in the project is the plan of permitting the workman to pay for a house after the manner of rent, in order that he may acquire his own home advantageously, well situated, and in a locality near the capital. In this way it is expected to awaken in the laboring classes the spirit of foresight and economy.

Information has also been received that the Director of Public Works has asked of the Electric Tramway Company, upon the basis of the laborers' social betterment, a special tariff, with the object that once the laborers' colony is approved, the workmen can enjoy a rate proportionate to their ability.

OFFICIAL announcement is made that the entire issue of "Vera Cruz" paper has practically been retired and destroyed. A comparatively small amount was exchanged for the new issue, the remainder having been received by the Government as revenue from various sources, though several millions were donated by persons and organizations as a contribution toward the reduction of the nation's indebtedness.

LABOR CONGRESS MOVEMENT

Organization of Workingmen Under Sanction and Promotion of the Constitutionalist Government.

IN a number of States Congresses of workingmen have been held during the past year for the consideration of matters affecting their interests and much good has resulted therefrom. Never before in the history of the country have such meetings been held. Never until the Constitutionalists gained the ascendancy were people of that class permitted to gather for the purpose of discussing their grievances and endeavoring to alleviate their hitherto truly lamentable condition. Never was it recognized that they had any rights that demanded recognition and if there was ever any legislation on their behalf the statute books scarcely disclose it. The promulgation of such measures and the inauguration of congresses of working people in connection therewith comes therefore as a distinct surprise as well as an innovation. These gatherings have been made up of delegates from unions and other organizations, and their proceedings have been uniformly of a wise and creditable character.

In the State of Sonora, Governor Adolfo de la Huerta has, however, given such organizations official status, and the Labor Congress of that commonwealth is to become an integral element in the regular Government, as will be seen, the organization not only receiving recognition but substantial support therefrom.

The decree authorizing the organization of this novel body (and if there is anything like it anywhere else in the world THE REVIEW has never heard of it), recites that one of the principal causes of the Revolution was the discouragement of laborers from habits of economy because of the unjust system of the division of the profits secured by employers from their toil. By the system that has prevailed in the past, the laborers are made the practical slaves of the capitalists, and one of the prime objects of the Revolution was the redemption of the laboring class and the transformation of the social system as a concomitant. The right of striking as the method by which laborers can obtain their rights is recognized by the Government, but it is hoped with the aid of the Labor Congress to be able to obviate such troubles by securing the rights of the workers without the necessity of resorting to extreme measures.

Inasmuch as the local legislative body, the State Congress, is at all times occupied with matters of general public interest and importance and cannot devote the necessary time to the special study of the important problem of the rights and desires of the working class, it has been thought best to direct the organization of a Workingmen's Congress. This body is especially charged with studying all matters relating to the welfare of the workers and deciding upon the best manner for solving the many problems that arise.

It is to be made up of delegates from unions and labor organizations of whatever character. Organizations having more than a thousand members are given one representative for each thousand, and one for each fraction of that number over five hundred. Such delegates must present proper credentials of election from the organization sending them, and these credentials are required to be certified by the chief legal authority of the district represented, showing that all the forms required have been complied with. These are that the delegate shall be a Mexican citizen, that he shall be more than twenty-five years of age, and that he shall have belonged to the laboring class for at least five years before his election.

This will effectually prevent any one from posing as a laboring man merely in order to secure a seat in the Labor Congress, which is thus assured of being composed of bona fide workers.

The Congress must conduct itself honorably and use moderation in treating of affairs with the authorities and must observe good faith in carrying out the arrangements made by the authorities.

The members of the Labor Congress will receive the same remuneration for their services as given the members of the regular State Congress, and will be paid solely during their actual engagement in the business of the Congress. This is a just measure, as it would manifestly not be dealing fairly by men who are actual workers to ask them to give up their time without compensation for the good of the people at large and in such an important public work for the general welfare of the entire country, since the influence of such gatherings is widespread and of the utmost importance.

Delegates to the Congress shall be chosen on the 15th of December of each year and the body so elected shall hold its first session on the first of January following, in the State capital, Hermosillo. There shall be two sessions annually—one in the months of January and February, and the other in the months of July and August.

Between the sessions of the Congress a permanent commission of three members shall have charge of labor matters. Their especial duty shall be to study conditions and the necessities of the laboring class, and they shall also see that the laws affecting them are enforced. They shall study closely such matters with a view to determine the best system to be adopted to carry out the purposes of the calling of the Congress.

One of the leading problems to be solved is that of indemnification of laborers suffering injury or sickness, and also that of the families of men who lose their lives while employed. Under the old regime there was no regularity about such indemnification, and in the greater number of cases injured men received little or nothing, while the families of those killed were as a rule abandoned to their own devices, receiving nothing for the loss of their head.

In case of disputes between workers and employes the Congress shall give its opinion as to the best manner of settling them, and it shall also be the duty of that body to see that the labor laws are rigidly enforced.

In the meantime and pending action by the Congress, the following fundamental regulations concerning labor have been decreed:

"The day's work of a laborer shall be at most eight hours.

"The minimum pay of a laborer shall be one dollar and fifty cents national specie.

"The minimum age of a laborer shall be fourteen years.

"For all tasks whose continuance is more than six days, the employers are obliged to make a very clear and concise contract showing the obligations and rights of the contractors.

"It is the obligation of all employers to concede to their laborers one day's rest in each week.

"Claims for indemnification for accidents sustained by laborers while at work shall be committed to the Official Protector, and in his default to that of some person designated by the Executive of the State.

"Infractions of this law shall be publicly denounced and the person guilty of them shall be punished by a fine up to $500 in national gold, and by imprisonment for one month."

These regulations as quoted have been in effect in Sonora since October 10, 1916. An example of their effectiveness is seen in a recent ruling whereby a laborer who lost an arm in the Cananea copper reduction plant was awarded $5000 damages. In former times he would have scarcely received a cent.

LABOR NOTES

AN industrial school for women has been established in Saltillo, the capital of the State of Coahuila, where instruction will be given in all branches.

MINERS whose home is Guanajuato are returning there from other portions of the Republic, owing to the reopening of the mines, which is becoming general in that State.

THE Department of Labor of the State of Oaxaca is arranging to send several thousand workingmen into the State of Campeche, where they are much needed for agricultural and other development.

ONE of the results of the recent Workingmen's Congress in Yucatán is the establishment of a "Casa de Prestamos," or house for making loans. Two million dollars capital has been assured and the rate of interest charged will be very low.

A RAILWAY exposition is being held in Mexico City, at which every article shown is the product of native mechanics. Among other notable exhibits is a completely equipped locomotive, every portion of which was made in the local shops by Mexican labor.

A TECHNICAL commission has been appointed for the examination and reorganization of all the railway shops in the Republic, with the view of increasing their efficiency and also of ameliorating the condition of the thousands of employes in many respects.

THE Union of Restaurant Waiters and Employes in Mexico City is co-operating with a commission appointed by Governor Lopez de Lara of the Federal District for the amelioration of the condition of its members and the securing of more adequate compensation.

THE labor unions of Mexico City celebrated the anniversary of the commencement of the revolution against the Diaz regime on November 20th. Entertainments of various kinds were given and the members pledged themselves to the support of the reform government.

REPORTS from Durango are to the effect that the workingmen in all portions of that State have organized political clubs to take part in the coming campaign for the election of Congress and President. They have never before been permitted to do this, or even to organize for the betterment of their condition in any way.

THE management of one of the largest cotton factories in the Republic, situated at Torreon, has undertaken the establishment of an extensive educational institution for the benefit of the employes and their children. This factory is owned by a foreign company and the present step is a marked advance upon former methods.

THE mechanics in the railroad shops at Aguascalientes struck recently because of dissatisfaction concerning their wages. Director-General Pescador, who was visiting that region, was called upon to adjust the matter, which was done satisfactorily and the men returned to work after a suspension of operations of but a few hours.

SEVERAL co-operative societies have been organized by Chinese in Yucatan as well as in other portions of the Republic. The latest reported is a confederation of the makers of ice cream, non-alcoholic beverages, etc. The names of the officers are nearly all Mexican, although one is a mixture—Antonio Sam. It is the custom of many Chinese to drop their national names entirely.

THE CONFEDERATION OF WORKINGMEN of the State of Vera Cruz, representing the tens of thousands of employees of the great cotton and other factories of that section, asked General Heriberto de Jara to represent them in the Constituent Congress for the purpose of having embodied in the fundamental laws of the Republic suitable measures for the protection of the working classes.

CHURCHES OPEN IN MEXICO

Refutation of Certain Widespread Misstatements Regarding Freedom of Religious Worship

BY GEORGE MINER

It has been persistently asserted by Catholic and some other papers, as well as by certain priests of that faith, that there is no religious freedom in Mexico and that there are no Catholic churches open for worship in many sections—especially in the State of Yucatán.

This is not true. I know personally to the contrary. Not only have I seen Catholic churches open, but I have been in them when services were being held. This was not long ago, only last August to be exact, when I was last in Mexico.

Church of Santiago, Merida

To remove any possible doubt on this question there are herewith reproduced photographs of four different churches in Merida, Yucatán, showing worshippers entering them and services being conducted. These photographs were taken on Sunday, November 12, 1916, during the hours that mass was being celebrated.

The churches referred to are those of Santiago, Santana, San Juan and San Cristobal. They are open every day and regular services at the usual times are held in them,

In addition to these four Catholic churches there are two others which are also open. One is a Syrian church and the other a Protestant chapel, conducted by the American Board of Foreign Missions.

It is quite true that there are twelve other Catholic churches in Merida which are closed, including the Cathedral. Among these churches which are not open for religious purposes, one is used as a sort of uplift club and library for young men, another is a school for young women, where domestic science is taught, and still another is used for the more prosaic purpose of storing food supplies to be distributed to the needy in case of emergency and whose bodily needs are believed to take precedence over the spiritual. Most of the small churches throughout the State which were closed to religious purposes are now used as school houses. In them many thousands of peon children are making rapid progress in a liberal education that would do credit to the public schools of any State in the Union. Under the old Diaz regime the children of the common people were denied an education of almost any kind.

Church of San Cristobal, Merida

That the number of churches in Mexico was far in excess of the demands of the population nobody ever disputed. Take this same city of Merida, for example. It has a population of about 80,000. Sixteen churches, all of one denomination, are certainly out of all proportion for a city of that size, especially when it is remembered that the non-churchgoers far outnumber the attendants. So most of them were closed up. Four seem to answer the demands of the inhabitants very well indeed, for none of them are ever crowded at any of the services.

It is the announced policy of the Constitutionalist Government that there shall be religious freedom in Mexico, but not religious intolerance. To this end more churches will be opened to devotional purposes as soon as it appears that there is any demand or need for them.

Governor Alvarado, of Yucatán, is very broad minded in this respect. He has no prejudice against any creed or form of religion and recognizes no state church. He has told me on several occasions that the public are at absolute liberty to worship according to the dictates of their conscience. That he is in earnest about this is proved by the fact that only a few months ago a party of some half-dozen American missionaries, headed by the Rev. Mr. Brown, visited Yucatán for the purpose of making converts to the Protestant faith.

Interior Church of Santa Ana

Church of San Juan, Merida

Governor Alvarado treated them most courteously and gave them every facility for traveling about the country and preaching their doctrines. He is not of their faith either. I am very sure of that, and unless I am greatly mistaken he is a Roman Catholic. He does not, however, believe in mixing Church and State.

The whole church question in Mexico is one that is very much misunderstood and misrepresented in the United States. It is an almost absolutely Roman Catholic country; no country in the world more so. That Roman Catholic churches have been closed and some of them sacked is common knowledge, but it has all been done by Roman Catholics themselves, not by officials or soldiers of any other faith.

At the time of the French occupancy of Mexico, French soldiers, from a Roman Catholic country, did quite as much despoiling of the churches there as has been done during the five years of the recent revolutionary strife. It seems to me, as an American, that the church question in Mexico is one that the Mexicans should be allowed to settle among themselves. It is very largely their own affair.

Church of Santiago, Merida

National Labor Congress to be Held

The city of Orizaba, in the State of Vera Cruz, is the center of the cotton manufacturing industry, and many thousands of operatives are there employed. It was there that the movement for the amelioration of their condition originated early in 1915, when the First Chief issued a decree increasing their wages from 35 to 50 per cent—the first time in the history of the Republic that anything of the kind had ever been done. It was there too that when, some eight or nine years ago, the workmen struck for a slight increase in pay and an amelioration of conditions that had become unbearable, they were shot down in cold blood by the score.

Since the increase in pay decreed by the Chief, there have been other increases and much better conditions have been inaugurated in every respect. The workers in the city named have become so encouraged that now they have issued a call for a national workingmen's congress, made up of delegates from all portions of the Republic, for the purpose of discussing measures for the general welfare of the common people in all industries and in all conditions.

They believe that it is indispensable that there should be unions organized in the various industries that shall be nation wide in their scope and that shall inaugurate measures that will place all upon an equality. It is proposed to discuss the best manner for securing the same rate of pay, the maximum number of hours of labor, the education of children and adults, the establishment of schools at all points, the payment of indemnities for accident or death, and in fact the complete regeneration of the conditions of the working classes.

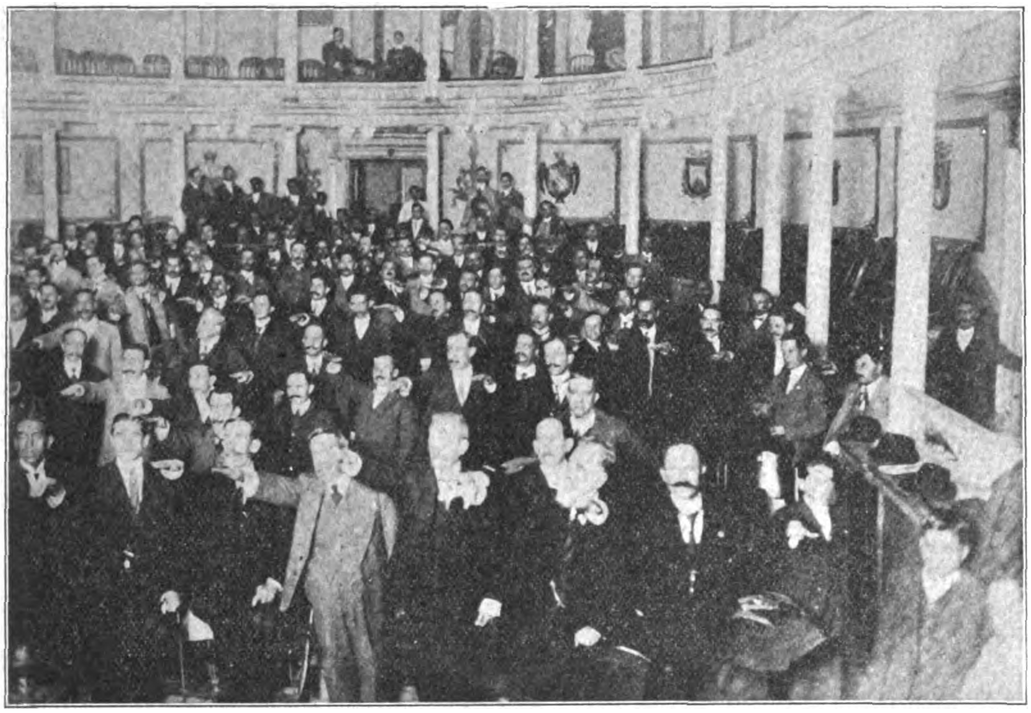
Church of Santa Ana, Merida

THE CONSTITUENT CONGRESS

Significant Features of the Recent National Gathering at Queretaro

BY BERNARD GALLANT

UNDOUBTEDLY the most significant feature of the Constituent Congress, held in Queretaro, was the indication of the aims and ambitions of the Constitutionalist leaders. For six years Mexico has been in a constant state of chaos and turmoil. General after General rose and fell. Law and order, traditions and customs, everything gave away to the accumulated wrath of the people. And in this bitter strife no goal was visible. It was hard to determine just where the leaders were aiming.



MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TAKING THE OATH

For the outside world it was difficult to realize that before anything constructive could be accomplished, much had to be destroyed, much had to be torn down. Practically everything in the Diaz and the Huerta governments was corrupted. A clique of foreign concessionaires practically controlled the entire wealth of the country. Mexico, with its enormous resources, ceased to be a land of opportunity for the Mexicans. For the leaders of the Diaz government, such men as Jose Ives Limantour and his collegues, practically controlled everything. The people, the peones and Indians, possessed nothing. They were at the mercy of the few and lived in a state of bondage.

When the 242 delegates gathered at Queretaro on November 20th to discuss law and order in Mexico, it meant that the old had been torn down and that foundations for the new, modern structure were being laid. Those delegates came from every nook and corner of Mexico. They were not the polished, shrewd politicians of the Diaz or Huerta type, but they were honest and sincere men, who keenly realized the tremendous task imposed upon them.

The great majority of them were young men, burning with ambition and desire for achievement,—a group of men such as could never have been found in the former legislative assemblies of Mexico.

A perusal as to their activities revealed that they were ranchmen, business men, lawyers, journalists and ordinary workingmen. But perhaps the most encouraging feature of the gathering was the absence of military men at the Congress. Of the 242 delegates only a dozen were military men or in any way connected with the army. And those men were not of the influential or powerful type of General Obregon, Pablo Gonzales or even Alvarado. They were men who were forced into the army by circumstances, but to whom military life is neither an aim nor a goal. According to the ruling of the President of the Congress the military men dared not appear at the sessions in military garb and to their credit it must be said that not a single member ever attempted to disregard this ruling.

The Constituent Congress was distinctly a civilian affair. It was a people's gathering to discuss the laws and reforms which were made necessary by the progress of the time and was not a military affair. The Constituent gathering was not a political congress. It was a scientific congress called by the leaders of the people to discuss the Constitution of 1857, make a thorough study of it and introduce into it the necessary reform measures for which the Revolution has been waged. The Congress was empowered to call the election for the Presidency of the Republic, Senators, Judges, Governors and the many other officers of the country. Thus Mexico will automatically pass from a revolutionary state into the form of law and order. It means the successful cessation of the Revolution, the triumph of the Constitutionalist cause.

The tendency of the Congress was empasized most emphatically when the President of the assembly was chosen. It was a hard task and an important office. Yet the man chosen for it was an individual of great learning, broad views and most pacific tendencies. Señor Luis Manuel Rojas, the President, was the one who protested most loudly against Henry Lane Wilson. It was his twenty-four accusations, entitled "I accuse," that had much to do with the recall of the former Ambassador to Mexico. Last summer after the Carrizal affair, when this country and Mexico were on the brink of war, he was the chairman of the Informal Peace Conference arranged by the Anti-Militarist League and he did a great deal towards establishing better relations between the two countries. In a measure he represented the entire spirit of the Congress. It indicated the pacific tendencies, the desire for better relations with its neighbors, which the gathering hoped to bring about.

The Congress, viewed from every angle, will explain the entire strife and struggle of Mexico. Many things that have been incomprehensible to the foreigners, the constant upheaval, the bitter revolt, become simple; for the Congress is pointing at and giving to understand what lay beneath the historic Revolution.

One thing is certain, Mexico is not tending towards Socialism or Anarchism. The aim of the Congress and its leaders is to bring about genuine democracy for the land beyond the Rio Grande. It is striving to establish opportunity for all, genuine liberty, and abolish the special privileges for the few rich, Mexican and foreign alike. The underlying motive, the main cry, is "Mexico for the Mexicans." This, however, does not mean that the Congress was anti-foreign. It was not. Mexico at present is very pro-Mexican, it has become strongly nationalistic, which is quite natural. They have just awakened to the wonders of their land and they are anxious to make the best of its many golden opportunities. The Congress was to be the guiding spirit, and its leaders and delegates cemented and unified the entire nation.

Protecting Employes from Injustice

GOVERNOR LOPEZ DE LARA of the Federal District, in which is located the capital city, has issued a decree regarding the payment of salaries and wages in specie, as ordered by the First Chief, which is of great interest. The decree recites that one of the principal missions of government is to protect the interests of all classes without sacrificing those of one class for the benefit of another, and that in view of the existing economic difficulties it has been deemed just to direct: The summary dismissal of laborers and other workers without just cause is prohibited, except for fraud or abuse of confidence on the part of the one dismissed, notorious unskilfulness or negligence, grave faults with respect to their treatment of their employers or members of their families.

In case of dismissal that is unjustifiable the proprietor, employer or agent in charge must pay the sufferer two months' salary. The matter must first be laid before the district government, which will decide what shall be done. The payment ordered must be made within twenty-four hours after decision is rendered, and those who refuse to comply therewith shall be subjected to a fine of $500 or arrest for fifteen days, or until the payment is made.

Chinese Labor Union in Yucatan

THE Chinese laborers in Yucatán have organized an association under the title of "The Association of Laborers of the Chinese Colony of the Peninsula," its purpose as stated being to resist the tyrannies which in former times were imposed upon them by the capitalists. In their work they are being aided by members of the workingmen's congress of Yucatán, who have pledged their aid to the Chinese in their contest "against their eternal enemies, the capitalists."

Among other steps taken by the Chinese Union is active opposition to the perpetuation or introduction of various forms of vice which have a tendency to lower the standards of their fellow countrymen, and the Chinese Minister to Mexico has been asked by them to aid in their efforts for the uplift of those of his own nationality.

YUCATAN'S LABOR CONGRESS

First Session of a Gathering That Marks an Epoch in the History of Mexico

OF almost equal importance with the Constituent Congress at Querétaro, about which readers of THE REVIEW were informed in the last issue, are the Labor Congresses recently held in the States of Sonora and Yucatán. They mean the opening of the way for better labor conditions, education, and more time for home and social culture and enjoyment for the laboring people; they mean a higher and more effective intelligence for that great body of men and women of Mexico upon whose labor and well-being the welfare and progress and future of the Republic must be based—without which liberty can not be practiced, nor even comprehended.

This is the thought of the leaders of this Mexican labor movement, and General Salvador Alvarado, Governor of the State of Yucatán, and Señor Adolfo de la Huerta, the Governor of the State of Sonora, will long be carried in the memory and hearts of the laboring people of these two States and of Mexico, as men who recognized the hardships and needs of labor, and who utilized the power given them by their exalted positions in responding to its necessities through a call to a Labor Congress in their respective States. And their call shows how the promises of the Constitutionalist Government are being redeemed through the very able men placed in authority by the First Chief, whose sympathy is with the oppressed and whose ambition is a substantial future of strength, culture and progress for his beloved country. With these two Governors in their work on behalf of the laboring classes stands Governor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila, whose labor law is outlined in this issue of THE REVIEW.

The call as issued on October 20, 1916, for the Labor Congress, by General Alvarado, Governor of Yucatán, aroused great interest throughout the State, and enthusiastic meetings were held and arrangements made for representation by the various labor organizations.

The Congress was opened on the 19th day of November, by C. Eladio Domínguez, Chief of the Department of Labor, representing the Governor of the State. In a speech, which at its conclusion received prolonged applause, among other things, he said that no one better than the laborers themselves could solve the important questions the Congress was called to consider. They had met to discuss, to study, to examine carefully all that related to their economical betterment and their general situation, in accordance with the solemn promise to them of the Constitutionalist Revolution; they had met, a Congress of laborers, to consider the rights and the obligations of the laboring people, to study the means most adequate to emancipate them from an odious tutelage, a yoke they had long sustained; their work and decisions would be most important for the future, to assist in the redemption of their country and her progress. In closing, he referred to General Alvarado, who he said would carry into effect all regenerative means to place the yucatecan laborer in the dignified position he should occupy in society, and that it had been he who had wisely interpreted the principles of the glorious Constitutionalist Revolution. He said that there should exist eternal gratitude to him for his patriotism, which posterity would realize at its highest value.

The aspirations of the workingmen of Mexico were voiced well in the terms "Brotherhood, Unionism, Federalism and Socialism," by Ricardo Mimenza Castillo. Their great problems, he said, were culture and union, and the first necessity was culture, always culture! The Union, he said, was the power and the nerve of the struggle; it was that which would sustain the edifice of the workingmen; the whole labor question was latent in the union of the laborers themselves. in the Labor Congress, he continued, they must search for truth, and their labor must all be to that end, if there were to be fruitful results from its sessions; they must work with freedom of decision, with a clear concept as to the interests of vital value to the labor body, and must remember always the necessity of union and culture.

The ideal of labor redemption is embodied in the following:

I. To make effective (to bring about) in the shops the principle of pedagogy through "The School in the Shop."

II. To wipe out completely and forever the selfishness and lack of good-fellowship that exists among the workingmen.

III. To know how to infiltrate into the laborer's heart the love of country and of the country's heroes.

IV. To see that the limitation of hours of labor be a fact real and positive.

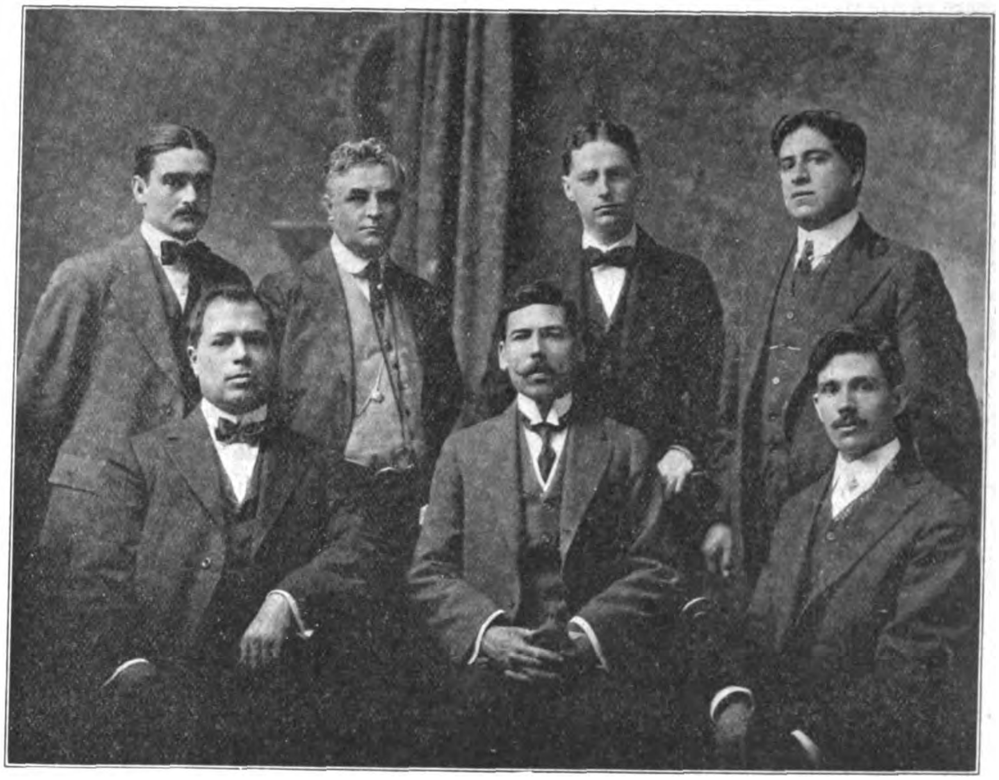
V. To prohibit, under severe penalties, the night labor of children and of women.

VI. To establish shop co-operation, by which the laborer, in addition to his day's work, may aspire to some recompense for over-time.

VII. Construction of houses for laborers.

VIII. To establish a Center of Culture and Recreation.

IX. To further, by means of contests, medals and other rewards, the spirit of invention and the love of the beautiful.



AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE ELISEO ARREDONDO AND HIS ASSISTANTS (*From photo taken in 1916*)
Sitting—(Left to right) Luis Peredo, Eliseo Arredondo, Jose Maria Arredordo
Standing—(Left to right) Ricardo Vasquez, Luis D'Antin (deceased) Oscar Duplan, Francisco Peredo

BASES OF THE FIRST LABOR CONGRESS IN YUCATÁN

I. At this Congress each of the Labor Societies of the State shall be represented by four delegates, named by the respective Societies.

II. The Congress shall remain in session from the 19th to the 30th of November for the present year (1916).

III. This Congress shall discuss and resolve the following questions:

- (a) Reform of the Labor Law in force.
- (b) What are the most urgent necessities of the yucatecan laborer, and in what manner can they be remedied?
- (c) What is the method most adequate to procure the physical and moral betterment of the laborer?
- (d) In what manner can brotherhood and labor co-operativism be implanted in the State?
- (e) How can the laborer free himself from the burden of the leasehold?
- (f) What benefits would a Labor Exchange bring to the State, and in what manner could such institution be made effective?
- (g) What is the best form of social effort to make the emancipation of the laborer effective?

IV. The Directive Board of the first local Labor Congress shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, two Secretaries, and five voting members.

V. The Department of Labor shall formulate opportunely the economic rules and regulations of this Congress, which shall be submitted to the approbation of the Executive of the State.

VI. The resolutions reached by the Congress shall be submitted to the consideration of the Executive of the State.

VII. At the preliminary session of the Congress, there shall be named the Directive Board and the various Commissions which have to decide the propositions submitted.

VIII. The expenses of this Congress shall be paid by the Government of the State.

(*Continued on page 11*)

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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NOTE AND COMMENT

THERE is a very strong movement under way in the United States looking toward compulsory military service. There are apparently not many still living who recollect an attempt in that direction that was made in 1863!

ELSEWHERE is given a list of retail prices of necessaries of life as established by the authorities in Mexico City. It will compare very favorably with prices in this country, while in some respects the values are considerably lower than in the United States.

THE Department of Fomento recently granted seven concessions for the construction of wharves, pumping plants and other facilities for the handling and shipment of petroleum in the Tampico district. These concessions were in every case given to foreign companies or to foreigners individually. This simple fact tells the story of actual conditions in Mexico more potently than any amount of argument.

DURING the year 1916 there were sixteen young men killed while playing football in the United States. In 1915 there were the same number of fatalities, while in 1914 there were fifteen. It is stated that most of these victims "did not suffer, being killed outright." This probably mitigates the sufferings of the survivors and in some mysterious manner is doubtless intended as an apology for what to an outsider (a bullfighter for example) might possibly otherwise be regarded as a rather brutal sport.

THE National Department of Public Instruction proposes to make use of moving picture films for the purpose of showing the public at large actual conditions in various directions, the progress that is being made in the establishment of schools, the promotion of industries, public works, etc., as well as the scenery and natural resources of the country. This method of educating the public is as efficacious as it is popular and a world of good can be accomplished by thus demonstrating to the world that Mexico is not quite the undeveloped and uncivilized country that many suppose, merely because they have never had the opportunity to learn the truth regarding it.

IN the first issue of THE REVIEW the statement was made that religious liberty was guaranteed by the Constitutionalist Government. This was challenged pointblank from several sources, and the charge was made that it was untrue at least as regards the State of Yucatán, where, so it was said, "all churches have been closed and no religious worship is permitted." Doubting the accuracy of this charge, THE REVIEW took steps to ascertain the truth, and it is given in this issue. Photographs were taken especially for this periodical, showing the open doors of churches, the people passing in and out, and the worshippers in reverential attitude in the interior. The facts are recited by Mr. George Miner, the well known writer, who himself is witness to the accuracy of the pictures and of the statements. This is certainly sufficient refutation of the charge referred to at the outset.

THE accuracy of much of the "news" regarding Mexican affairs that has its source in El Paso is evidenced by the recent arrival at the border of a party of eight or ten foreigners whose deaths had been reported over and over again, accompanied by accounts of torture and brutality of the most apocryphal character and which the veriest tyro in experience in that country knew to be false. It is to be doubted whether the greater portion of those who read and believed the sensational accounts of these alleged murders, embellished with staring head lines and blackest type, ever saw the dispatches giving the truth. And it is in this manner that the popular misconceptions regarding Mexico are fostered and encouraged.

IT is proposed to do in Great Britain what was done in Mexico during the past year: Put all land under cultivation the owners of which make no productive use thereof. Committees will take charge in each county and allot the use of the lands, specifying the crops that shall be grown. The Government will buy the product at a fixed price. It is not stated in the preliminary explanation whether the actual cultivator is to make any return to the land owner, but it is presumed he will not. So far no one has said anything about "confiscation," but the land owners will doubtless be heard from later. This is exactly what was done in Mexico during the past year and it produced the same sort of complaint which will doubtless be heard in Great Britain.

A DELIBERATE effort to depreciate the value of the paper currency issued in Yucatan with the resources of the powerful "Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen" behind it, has made it necessary for Governor Alvarado to give formal and emphatic notice that there is no ground whatever for the antagonistic movement set on foot by speculators, since there is a specie value behind each note of seven times its face, and it can be exchanged at any time on demand. Only those ignorant of the real foundation of this currency are imposed upon by the representations of the speculators, which have from the first been directed toward the discrediting of all the paper issued by the Government. It is unfortunately true that this antagonism has been greatly fostered by foreigners of one nationality or another.

THE series of articles entitled "The Truth about Mexico," from the pen of David Lawrence, that appeared in the New York Evening Post in the latter part of December, is by all odds the best contribution upon the Mexican question that has appeared since the commencement of the Revolution in 1910. Mr. Lawrence has made a careful study of the matter from its inception, he has divested himself of whatever prejudices he may have had, and has written fairly, freely and in the most straightforward and truthful manner. The result is a pen picture of conditions that can be depended upon for accuracy, and which should be carefully read and studied by those who desire the truth—whether Americans, Mexicans, or whatever nationality. THE REVIEW trusts that this exceptionally valuable contribution to the history of the day may be preserved in book form.

Pounds and Kilos

THE standard of weight in Mexico is the kilogram, called "kilo" for the sake of abbreviation in ordinary language. There is much misunderstanding regarding the relation between kilograms and pounds, and for the sake of accuracy in this respect the actual figures are here given and are worth preserving:

One pound equals .45359 of one kilo.
Ten pounds equal 4.535 kilos.
One hundred pounds equal 45.3592 kilos.
One thousand pounds equal 453.592 kilos.
Two thousand pounds, or one "short" ton, equal 907.184 kilos.

The "long ton" of 2240 pounds is the equivalent of 1,016.032 kilos, which is 16.03 kilos more than the metric ton of 1000 kilos, so that the latter is the equivalent of within a fraction of 2200 pounds, although in most commercial transactions where the metric system is followed it is usually on the basis of a metric ton and a "long" ton being equal.

Military Training in Schools

THERE is strong opposition to enforce military training in public schools of the United States, just as there is strong opposition to enforced enlistment in an auxiliary force for the regular army, both of which measures are now seriously advocated in that country. Those whose memories run back to the civil war and the bloody "draft riots" need not be told how enforced enlistment or conscription would be regarded and resisted. But the bestowment of some measure of military training upon the young while attending school is a different matter. In the first place, military drill is very beneficial from a physical standpoint, as well as from other directions. In the next place, as one of the Mexican leaders has so well put it when advocating compulsory military training in the schools, if the greater portion of the men of the nation have but the rudiments of such knowledge and training, if they know only the fundamentals—how to march, how to drill and above all how to shoot—there will be little danger of any dictator or usurper ever again being able to impose his will upon the people merely because he has a force of troops at his disposal, whether on paper or actually in the field. The writer enjoyed the advantage of a small measure of military training at school while a boy, and has many times had occasion to be glad of it. He believes that it is a good idea and that much more good than possible harm will result from it. There *never was a boy* with good red blood in his veins, at least in the United States, who did not want to know how to shoot, and it is much better to have him learn under competent expert instructors than to pick up the knowledge at haphazard, with all the attendant risk. Not knowing how to handle weapons has cost many a life.

SECRETARY CANDIDO AGUILAR

A Young and Ardent Revolutionist Who Has Risen Rapidly Through His Patriotism

ONE of the interesting features of the revolutionary movement in Mexico is the fact that with but few exceptions the leaders are all young men. A striking example is to be found in General Candido Aguilar, who occupies the responsible post of Secretary of Foreign Relations. He is a native of the State of Vera Cruz, having been born in the municipality of Cordoba, where his parents are the owners of an extensive hacienda, in 1888, and is therefore but 28 years of age.

His parents spared no pains in educating their son, and from early childhood he developed a brilliant intellect and developed into an earnest student and leader. As a teacher his efforts were successful and he rallied many followers. Although the representative of a wealthy family, his sympathies were from the outset, as a result doubtless of his education, with the common people and before he had reached full maturity he engaged in efforts for the betterment of their condition. His first step in this direction was the organization of the laborers in the vicinity of his home into a mutual co-operative society, which he also instructed in military tactics, foreseeing the time when this training would be beneficial. Nor was he mistaken. He took a prominent part in the movement that resulted in the downfall of Diaz, inaugurating his opposition as early as July, 1910, several months before anything of the kind occurred elsewhere.

Owing to a lack of necessary equipment this movement was not at the outset a success, and he then went to Coahuila and allied himself with Francisco Madero. When the latter began active operations in November of the same year, Aguilar returned to Vera Cruz to aid the revolution among his friends. His mother was an ardent supporter of her son's ideas and it was due to her that the first active uprising in the State of Vera Cruz took place on November 19, directly after the death of the heroic Aquiles Cerdan in Puebla. Aguilar struggled so successfully that by the time Diaz was ready to acknowledge his downfall he had a strong body of soldiers and had occupied three important points, including the city of Cordoba.

As soon as the revolution had triumphed the military ability of the young soldier led to his being sent to Morelos to raise a force in opposition to Zapata. The district assigned to him was soon pacified through his efforts and he immediately set about alleviating the condition of the laboring class. One of the first steps was to enforce a minimum wage of 75 cents per day, whereas before his advent laborers had been obliged to accept 25 cents daily as a maximum. Other measures for the alleviation of the common people were also carried out with success.

After five months passed in this manner, and the purposes of the revolution having been accomplished in his district, he was sent on a campaign against the reactionaries in the State of Vera Cruz, which also proved successful in a short time. In the city of Cordoba he organized the Thirty-eighth regiment of rural guards and was appointed Colonel, by order of President Madero. With this force he was instructed to inaugurate a campaign against the orozquistas in the Laguna district of Coahuila, and marched overland to that section, meeting and defeating several bands of rebels who were seeking to prevent him from reaching his destination, as that would have involved the relief of Torreon, then being besieged by them. They were unsuccessful, however, and were defeated in a last engagement at Gomez Palacio, resulting in their flight.

Soon after this brilliant and successful campaign, Colonel Aguilar was appointed to direct the military operations in the State of Zacatecas against the rebels, which also proved successful in a short period, whereupon he returned to his home municipality of Cordoba.

When Felix Diaz revolted and attempted to capture Vera Cruz, Colonel Aguilar was given the command of the cavalry that defeated the uprising, and immediately thereafter he was again sent to Zacatecas to engage in a movement in that State and in Durango against the notorious Argumedo and Cheche Campos. This campaign only lasted thirty days and ended with the complete crushing of the rebel forces, in one instance surprising a heavy force with but 150 men in his command and completely routing the enemy.

Suffering from an attack of pneumonia as a result of the hardships of this campaign, Colonel Aguilar now sought to be relieved from military duty permanently, but the uprising of Diaz and Reyes having occurred, he at once proceeded to Mexico City and placed himself under the orders of the President. On the very day of the culmination of the plot against Madero he had been ordered to lead the attack on the citadel, but was sent for by Huerta to come to the National Palace, and was there arrested simultaneously with the President himself. But he succeeded in escaping from prison, and went to Vera Cruz on horseback, from there sailing to Puerto Barrios in Guatemala. From there he went to the United States, and thence to Northern Mexico, where he joined General Carranza, who appointed him chief of military operations in the State of Vera Cruz.

He started overland for that locality, assisting en route in the attack on Torreon, and then proceeding directly to his intended destination, reaching Huastecas in September of 1913.

He at once organized a force with his small escort for a nucleus and in a short time inflicted several defeats upon the enemy, and succeeded in soon obtaining control of the extensive petroleum fields in his native State. Here he had a brief experience with Admiral Fletcher of the American navy, who sent him word to leave under penalty of landing a force of marines and driving him out. This Aguilar absolutely refused to do, and told Fletcher that if troops were landed his forces would attack them and that he would also destroy the oil properties. As a result of Aguilar's determined stand, he was not molested.

Leaving this campaign for a visit to the First Chief in Sonora, Aguilar soon returned and again took the field, capturing many important places in rapid succession, including the important port of Tuxpan. After the capture of this place the First Chief appointed him a General and made him Governor and Military Commander of the State of Vera Cruz. He established headquarters at Tuxpan and at once engaged in civil affairs for the betterment of the people, including nationalization of lands, the suppression of provincial governors who had injured the people, and other reforms.

In August, 1914, he took charge of the forces operating against Vera Cruz while that place was occupied by the American troops and very cleverly aided in promoting its evacuation. At the same time he issued decrees prohibiting bull-fighting, abolishing lotteries and games of chance, establishing the six-day week for laborers, as well as the maximum number of hours constituting a day's work, abolishing the "tiendas de raya," or company stores, and instituting other measures for the public good. He also organized an Agricultural Commission to study the question of the distribution of lands.

When Villa revolted against the First Chief, every effort was made to persuade General Aguilar to join that movement, and he was offered high position for his treachery, but he refused most peremptorily, and instead of abandoning Carranza, offered him the territory which his forces controlled for the establishment of the Constitutionalist center of government. The First Chief thereupon removed the national capital to Cordoba, and when the Americans evacuated Vera Cruz, General Aguilar took possession and welcomed the First Chief to it.

The Governor of Vera Cruz placed himself among the statesmen of the Revolution, making good the promises of his party for a new regime. A congress of professors, summoned by him, continued in session, during five months, in the city of Jalapa, discussing the law of public instruction, which resulted in the creation of the Department of Education, thus diffusing the light of education even to the smallest towns, delivering from ignorance those who had been forever oppressed. Agriculture and industry received great impulses through the orders decreed that destroyed the immoral shackles that had been fastened upon the people by evil administrations of the past. The Labor Law was enacted and popular aspirations were realized when the laborer, strong in his unions, firmly protected by the Government, could at last rise in protest against the abuses of the capitalists.

Among the numerous reforms instituted by General Aguilar as Governor of the State were the adoption of the laws of municipal freedom, with the electoral law, securing the effectiveness of suffrage. He also abolished contracts of sale

CANDIDO AGUILAR

Concluded on page 13

PROGRESS IN HIDALGO STATE

Various Reforms Pledged by the Revolution Being Carried Out — Education, Labor, Land, Etc.

GENERAL NICOLAS FLORES, Governor of the State of Hidalgo, has furnished THE REVIEW with a copy of a lengthy report describing his activities, or rather those of the State Government under his charge, since assuming his position in August, 1915.

One of his first acts was to dispense with a number of supernumerary officials and to consolidate their duties under the management of a single official — the General Secretary of the State Government. His next step was the installation of civil officials in 67 of the 72 municipalities into which the State is divided, and the restoration of complete tranquility in all. Perfect peace has prevailed since his assumption of control, and the prompt and severe punishment of violators of the law has resulted in a very satisfactory condition of affairs and produced a salutary effect upon all classes.

Religious freedom is assured to all denominations within the law, and the Reform Laws are enforced impartially in this respect. There are several extensive Protestant schools and churches in this State, whose capital is Pachuca, where for many years there have been large numbers of foreigners resident.

An important feature of the administration of Governor Flores is the enforcement of the law against usury, fixing six per cent per annum as the legal rate that can be charged for loans. Evasion or infraction of this law is severely punished. As Pachuca has a large population of very poor people and as there have in the past been many pawnshops conducted by foreigners who have charged exorbitant rates and who have been very oppressive to their patrons, this feature of Governor Flores' administration is very popular.

Public education has received due attention and the number of schools in the rural districts has been increased over two hundred, while there have been established many high schools, besides numerous night classes for men and women. A night normal school has been established in the city of Pachuca, for both sexes, a school of arts and painting for men, a school for instruction in manual arts, engineering, etc., as well as machine shops. In this direction there has been expended over $183,000. There were graduated from the schools last season 33,000 persons.

Industrial conditions in the State have been for the greater part normal and promise to continue so. The mining camps of Pachuca and immediate vicinity are the foremost in the Republic as silver producers and it is of interest to note that the principal works were never shut down during the entire Revolution, for more than a few days at a time, pending the arrival of necessary supplies. Less than a month would cover the entire time lost during the troubles of several years past.

One of the first acts of Governor Flores was to establish a Department of Labor, which was given authority to regulate the proper treatment of the workingmen of all classes, who had in the past suffered much from their employers. This department has settled the questions that have arisen between the workmen and the employers, has provided indemnity for death, has established a minimum of pay and a maximum of hours of labor for the day, and in many other respects has materially alleviated former conditions.

The local agrarian commission has busied itself with the restoration of community lands in most of the towns and has also established new pueblos for those requesting them.

The public health has been attended to by a commission especially charged therewith; provision has been made for an adequate supply of pure water, something that Pachuca never had and was as a result noted for its unhealthfulness. Idle lands were allotted to the poor who desired to cultivate crops thereon, at no cost in rental, and the State Government aided them in providing seeds and implements for agriculture. In this manner the food situation was alleviated throughout the entire State.

GOVERNOR NICOLAS FLORES

Daniel Webster and Benito Juarez

THE December number of THE MEXICAN REVIEW repeats an error into which it was led by "El Pueblo" of Mexico City which I venture to correct.

It is there asserted that Daniel Webster visited Mexico just after the so-called French Empire had collapsed, and paid a high tribute to the immortal Juarez. Now as Mr. Webster died in 1852, it would have been impossible for him to have been in Mexico at the time referred to, namely, 1867; indeed, I think that Mr. Webster was never in Mexico.

But Mr. Seward, Secretary of State under President Lincoln, visited Mexico about that time, and on account of the helpful attitude he and President Lincoln assumed on the French occupancy, received a most hearty welcome all the way from the Rio Grande to the City of Mexico. He it was, and not Mr. Webster, who paid that high but just tribute to the "Little Indian" from Oaxaca. On his return to Washington, some of Mr. Seward's friends, thinking perhaps that hearty receptions had somewhat influenced his enthusiasm toward the restorer of the Mexican Republic, called his attention to the fact that during his life he had known such men as Henry Clay, Senator Calhoun, Daniel Webster and other notables. "Nevertheless," responded Mr. Seward, "I have nothing to retract. For what he is himself and for what he has accomplished, I regard Benito Juarez as the greatest man I ever knew."

Nevertheless Daniel Webster was a true friend to Mexico. In 1845 he delivered a notable address in the United States Senate which received nation wide attention and in which he pleaded eloquently for a more sympathetic and helpful attitude toward our neighbor on the South.

JNO. W. BUTLER.

[The wide circulation of THE REVIEW and the character of its readers is evidenced by the fact that half a dozen corrections of the mistake noted have been received from points thousands of miles separated.]

Retail Prices for Necessaries of Life

GOVERNOR LOPEZ DE LARA, of the Federal District, after due examination of the cost of various food articles of prime necessity, has issued a price list fixing the maximum that may be demanded by the dealers. Infractions of this decree are punishable by a fine of $500 and imprisonment for thirty days. The prices as fixed are on the basis of Mexican specie and the standard of weights is the kilo. Converted into values in American currency, the prices by the pound are as follows:

	Per ℔.
Sugar, loaf	8c.
" granulated	7c.
" Peloncillo (brown in cakes)	5c.
Rice	5c. to 6c.
Coffee	8c. to 13c.
Chile (dried peppers)	14c.
Beans (all kinds)	4c.
Flour (native)	5c. to 5½c.
" (American)	6c. to 6½.
Potatoes	9c. to 11c.
Salt	1c. to 1½c.
Beef	6¾c. to 11c.
Pork	16c.
Goat or kid	4c. to 6c.
Fish	9c. to 18c.
Corn	2½c. to 3½c.
Lard	12c. to 18c.
Eggs, each	3c.
Milk — liter, little under quart	10c.
Chickens	37½c. to 50c. each
Ducks	37½c. pair

From which it will be seen that the cost of living in the city of Mexico will compare quite favorably with American cities. As all salaries and wages are for the greater part, and in many cases entirely, payable in specie, and as coin is coming rapidly into circulation from its hiding places, it can fairly be claimed that normal conditions are being restored.

It may be noted that at the figures quoted, beans are worth $2.40 and corn from $1.40 to $1.90 per bushel. These two articles constitute the bulk of the food of the common people.

New Gold and Silver Coinage

NOTICE has been given that all holders of gold or silver bullion in bars can dispose of the same at the mint in Mexico City, where it will be turned into coin. The price to be paid will be the bullion value according to the New York quotations of the day of the presentation thereof to the mint. Part of the value will be paid in gold drafts on New York as required, and the remainder in silver coins of fifty cents each. The tariff tax on bullion will be deducted from the price paid.

In this connection it is reported that a new coinage has been decided upon which will be known as "Calendarios." The gold will be in coins of the value of ten pesos each, and which are at present known as "Hidalgos." The new name is derived from the fact that on one side of each coin will be stamped a reproduction of the famous Aztec calendar stone.

The silver coins will be entirely of one peso value and will be identical in size with the old coin of that value. Both the gold and the silver will have the same die, representing on its obverse a national eagle, in accordance with the national design agreed upon in the authorizing decree. The reverse will show a "calendario azteca" finely worked out, and which will form the basis for the name by which the coins will be known.

The monetary value will be fifty cents, American gold, for each peso, with the object of avoiding the fluctuations incident to the old coins, which only reached the value of forty-nine cents and a fraction American gold.

The first "Calendarios" that will circulate are to be those of gold, of ten pesos, and they will be immediately put in circulation when a large coinage is ready. The circulation will be of great help to the public.

YUCATAN'S LABOR CONGRESS

(Concluded from page 7)

This First Labor Congress of Mexico, over which Señor René Prieto had the honor of presiding as its President, assembled in "La Escuela Vocacional de Artes Domésticas" (The Vocational School of Domestic Arts) of Mérida, Yucatán. For the most part, its sessions were held at night, between the hours of eight and eleven o'clock.

At one of the earliest sessions, the President of the Congress announced that some capitalists had communicated with the Honorable Governor of the State, asking that the Labor Congress be not carried into effect, since, they alleged, its delegates would there form whimsical laws; but the Governor refused their petition.

The Law of Labor of Yucatán is very comprehensive, and it is said that it will be the object of admiration and emulation, of commendation and applause of all the laborers of the American Continent. Who made this Law? it is asked. The Law of Labor of Yucatán was made by the Government of General Salvador Alvarado, and it was made for the exploited laborer, for the enslaved Indian and the entire community.

This Law of Labor was the first subject to come under discussion by the Congress, and it was closely scanned and the questions hotly argued. Among other things, it covered the questions of written contracts between employer and employee; of the designation of the place where the labor was to be performed; the strike; the Board of Conciliation, the Tribunal of Arbitration, and the Department of Labor.

The Laborers' Bank was a very interesting topic of discussion; and a "Laborers' Intellectual Center" was urged as a positive necessity.

One subject of very great importance to all classes of laborers in Mexico is the proper division of lands. There were many speeches on this question in the Congress, and much discussion.

The question of the suppression of the manufacture and sale of beer and wines was subjected to much animated argument on both sides. The liquor question is one that will gradually be solved for Mexico as it is being solved for the United States.

During its early sessions, a visit was paid the Labor Congress by the Governor, General Salvador Alvarado ("The Great Revolutionist," as they call him), accompanied by Chief Official Dr. Alvaro Torre Díaz, and the Chief of the Department of Labor, Señor Eladio Domínguez. He was received with a great demonstration of welcome, and while there he made a number of wise and opportune suggestions, which received earnest attention.

Religious liberty, dress, and adulteration of of foods received their share of discussion at the hands of the Congress.

In solemn session, the great Labor Congress of Yucatán, great because of its newness and its importance in the work done, and in the future outlook for all Mexico in consequence thereof, completed its labors on the evening of the 30th of November. The standards and decorations of the labor groups of the city and of those from the interior, together with the curtains, pennants, plants and flowers which adorned the place, and the sea of animated faces, made a scene never to be forgotten by the men who had been taking so important a part in a Congress of their own, concerning the well-being of brother-workmen and their families and friends. The band of the Military Staff, under the leadership of Señor Castañeda, rendered its finest music.

At fifteen minutes past eight, the President of the Congress, René Prieto, declared the session opened. In view of the inability of the Governor of the State to be present, on account of illness, the Directive Board had invited the Chief Official, Dr. Alvaro Torre Díaz, who democratically mixed with the workingmen.

Dr. Torre Díaz took the President's Chair, and a little later, President Prieto advanced to the front of the stage for a brief address. He referred to the purposes of the Labor Congress and its work and decisions, closing his remarks as follows:

"It may be said that in some decisions there is lack of equity; but it should be called to mind that the questions have been discussed with wide liberty, and rather in favor of the laborers than the employers, with the more reason, I think, because the employers have always legislated for themselves, and it is now we have our turn. We should go from here to our associations and make effective that union so indispensable for the redemption of the laboring class. I beg from the distinguished representative of the Governor of the State, that if it be possible, there be convoked a National Labor Congress, to make closer the ties that unite us with the brother laborers of other States."

At the last words of Señor Prieto he received enthusiastic and prolonged applause.

Immediately, the Representative of the Governor, Dr. Torre Diaz, came to his feet, and gave an interesting address, touching briefly the points transcendent to the laborers.

He commenced by speaking of the illness of General Alvarado, and acknowledged the honor of presiding at the closing session of the first Labor Congress of Yucatán. He wished to say a few words to the delegates for their encouragement. He felt that the primordial question for the workingmen was to unite closely and strongly, forming one body, and even then there would be failure if the mentality of the laboring class was not modified by education, the only firm base for triumph in its campaigns, and the converting into reality of the beautiful ideals which animated its purposes. "Until now," said the orator, "the working classes have remained in ignorance, because it has thus been convenient for the clergy and capitalist, who naturally thought that in that way they would easier be subjugated and enslaved than men intelligently conscious. And what I say of the laborers of Yucatán is applicable to the laborers of all the Republic. And I refer especially to the laborers of the small towns and the haciendas (ranches), who, from selfishness or from poor understanding of their interest, oppose a great force of inertia to the noble propositions of the Government to draw them from their ignorance and instruct them in regard to their duties and rights."

The speaker went on to say that in Merida it was rare to find a laborer who would not send his children to school; but that in the small towns and on the haciendas there was need of an earnest campaign to convince the parents of families of the necessity of education for their children. They too often put them at work at the earliest hour possible, thinking, mistakenly, that they must aid the parents even when very small, sacrificing their health and not permitting them to attend school. Against this must be the opposing force of the awakened laborers of the city. It should be axiomatic for them, he said, that education is the only basis for their independence and future welfare. He referred to the fact that in spite of there being more than a thousand schools in Yucatán, and in spite of the power and inflexibility of the Government in connection with the precept of obligatory instruction, a great number of children failed to attend the schools. He said that the enthusiasm of the Government of the State went even farther than the schools, in order to insure that all children receive instruction; that it had authorized a large sum of money for public libraries, and that already there had been established more than fifty libraries in the principal cities. He urged the members of the Congress to a realization of humanity, to a realization that all men are as citizens of one great country. He said the best elements should be made use of, come from where they might, and if with loyalty and with faith they collaborated with the laboring men of Mexico, they should be received with open arms, whether it were Cuba, Spain, the United States, or whatever country.

The orator spoke at some length on the importance of the savings bank. He referred to its enormous development in the principal nations, especially in France, where almost all the citizens are proprietors, and where it is rare to find one who has not his savings pass-book.

In closing, the orator urged the Congress to not permit their enthusiasm to falter, but to look forward with faith in the work commenced, that their union might be permanent and forever strong. "Gentlemen," he then said, "I solemnly declare closed the First Labor Congress of Yucatán."

NEWS NOTES

THE extensive foundry and machine shops of the American Metals Company, in Torreon, has resumed full operations, conditions in the Laguna district being such as to warrant belief in continued tranquility.

WIRELESS telegraph stations have been established in the engineering section of the War Department for the instruction of officers in that branch of the service. The entire Republic is being provided with this method of communication.

THE commission which was sent from Hermosillo, capital of the State of Sonora, for the purpose of restoring and repartitioning certain lands in the Territory of Lower California, has completed its labors with satisfaction and has returned home.

"EL DEMOCRATA," one of the leading daily papers of Mexico City, makes regular distributions of new clothing among the boys who sell that journal on the streets, and is acquiring great popularity in consequence among the poorer classes.

WORK has been commenced on the reconstruction of the railroad pier at Manzanillo. The commerce of that port has increased largely within the past few months and many vessels are now calling there regularly and securing much business.

TRAFFIC between Torreon and the city of Durango, and the latter place and Tepehuanes, the terminus of the line running northward to the State boundary, is reported to be regular and there has been no interruption from any cause for a lengthy period.

STRINGENT measures are being taken by the Department of Fomento to prevent the public from being swindled by petroleum companies organized solely for the purpose of selling stock, but having no actual property and doing no active development work.

A MEXICAN ON MEXICO

Evidences of the Country's Progress Under the Wise Hand of the First Chief, Venustiano Carranza

BY CARLOS FELIX DIAZ

REMARKABLE and well sustained as is the growth of the Capital city of the Republic, news reports from day to day show how steady and sure are the general progress and development of the whole country. The railways are compelled to build new freight houses and depots, to add to their equipment for the accommodation of both passengers and freight and to order new locomotives to keep pace with the business naturally resulting from the evolution of all material interests. The railway managers note with interest, and if with some astonishment, certainly with much satisfaction, this rapid development of new industries and the many new factories, some of them as yet small, but in the aggregate constituting a very notable addition to the industrial plant of Mexico.

Contracting firms are continually entering into contracts for apparatus for the transmission of power for factories, for electric lights, for irrigation, machinery for sugar mills, agricultural implements, cotton mills, mining and reduction machinery, structural iron and steel; and in fact, one cannot go anywhere, in the large cities, in the open plains, in the mountain gorges, without being confronted by the evidences of the solid and substantial progress of the country.

All these facts are known to the great and enterprising capitalists in foreign lands, who have their private means of keeping in touch with the ceaseless development and assured progress of the country, and hence the credit of Mexico stands high. And readers of THE REVIEW may rest assured that this development, this progress, this stability, will continue under the impetus already acquired in the onward march of the country under the wise hand of the First Chief, General Venustiano Carranza, and his trusty coadjutors.

Many people believe that the Revolution has thrown the country back. This is a great mistake. It is not true and it is ignoble for people to believe it. I myself have gone all over my dear Mexico, traversing it from North to South and from East to West. Thus I have been able to see the exact state of things. My country could not be put down by the Revolution. The Revolution in Mexico was for a righteous cause, and the Revolution must thus necessarily have been right. What is right is always just, and so the Revolution in Mexico was just.

What the Revolution has accomplished is the basis of the progress of the real Mexico, and it will be the foundation of a good and lasting peace and good-will among men—a peace with liberty and liberty with peace.

The peace which existed under President Diaz was a false peace; it was what the people in Mexico call a "grave-yard peace," i. e., a silent, bloody peace.

All persons, at any rate the well disposed ones, know that Mexico's real progress begins now. They also know that the regime of Diaz has been destroyed and from its ruins a new era has dawned, the era of Liberty and Prosperity.

A Homesick Mexican

ISRAEL ANDIRON IN FRANKLIN (PA.) NEWS

I OVERTOOK him as my automobile was swinging over the hills to the town where the new factory plant is being built. There is a labor camp there and a sign by the road reads: "Laborers Wanted."

He climbed in with profuse thanks in a foreign tongue and I soon found he was a Mexican, five months in this part of the country. He had been one of the revolutionary forces; opposed to the elder Diaz, to Madero, to Huerta and non-committal as to Villa. A bend in one leg testified to the accuracy of some Mexican soldier; he was enthusiastic for some general he had fought beside; I could not get the name, but he appeared to have been some local leader.

As we rode he was the typical Mexican gentleman. Bright, at ease, quick in reply with his broken English, anxious to please, ready with little attentions as I went into town and stopped at one or two stores. He was not well dressed; he seemed not to wear stockings under his rough shoes, but his eyes were well dressed and his smile was kind. He said he wanted to go back to San Antonio. "No, not Texas; San Antonio, Mexico." He wanted to go right away. Think of that benighted man preferring Mexico in these times to good old civilized Pennsylvania!

I went over to the camp and walked to the office with him. I was wearing an old rain coat; my auto was over in the road. The employing agent stood and stared insolently, when I asked him if he wanted another man. Then he spat on the ground, looked at me with studied insolence, and with a half grin, said: "So you—YOU want a job!"

I was a bit heavier than he and I felt quite in an explanatory mood. I looked him in the eyes and made my language plain. I could cheerfully have murdered him. He had been the most insulting of any man I had met in years, and all because, in a supposed effort to work for my living, I had offered to work for his corporation. When I got through with him he had a different attitude.

Then I took up the case of the Mexican. The applicant produced a card, showing he had worked on another job, up to a few days before; a job we knew had been completed. The agent treated the Mexican with the same insolence he had tried on me. The ex-soldier looked at him with unwavering eyes, but he wanted a job; he did not reply.

The agent finally said: "Go down to the camp." It was an order. The Mexican started towards the shacks. In going he did not look at me. I had brought him miles on his way; gotten him a job. Wondering at the change in the courteous gentleman I had carried, I spoke to him very pleasantly. He turned, looking at me as though he had never seen me. "Will you be all right now?" I asked. He did not even grunt. With a nod he turned down the path toward food and fire. I went back to my automobile. I had seen a great deal of illustration of why Mexico remains Mexican.

Here was the "Gringos'" civilization, this laborer would naturally reason. A gentleman, poor, self-respecting, goes to a white man in authority. That white man would not be his foreman; had no object in being other than a gentleman. Yet he treated him with a studied course of insults that among gentlemen in Mexico would mean invitation to sudden death. Manifestly, the "Gringo" is not a gentleman. All the white men he meets who have the power seem to treat him like that. Reports from people I know who have been in Mexico say it was the common thing for a white foreman to remark that he had forgotten his match box or something he wanted. A barefooted Mexican would run half a mile or so and run back to please the foreman. The white man would take the article and never even look at the sweating man, much less thank him. Manifestly, the white man could not be admired by a Mexican gentleman.

Through years the Mexican has been worked in the mines and in other dangerous places. No compensation was allowed when one was killed or injured. The pay barely supported life. The killing or injuring of a Mexican did not bring out even good surgical attention. What availed it to the Mexican that he was sweating and working? With the white man out of the country the Mexicans could tend herds, keep a little garden, work sometimes and live on the climate.

The white man prevents; the white man insults; the white man takes the riches; the Mexican must endure the results of the combination between his own government and the white men. He concludes it would be a good thing to kill the white people. While he is thinking about it some foreman or white man treats him as though he were a dog. Villa appears, the Mexicans rise and the country down there becomes a place of slaughter.

Of course my Mexican wanted to get back to Mexico. Yet if the needless insolence, the narrow, bigoted, degraded attitude which counts a laborer in general and a Mexican laborer in particular as mud, had never existed; if the white people had been kind, courteous, as much of a gentleman as the peon was with him, there would be no danger to white people down by the Rio Grande.

It is the fools and brutes who make this world unhappy. The Mexican endures the outrages upon his emotional life, upon his natural dignity, as a rule. Yet if every man set to hire and rule laborers, who had insulted without cause an industrious Mexican, trying to please, had been instantly thrashed, it would have saved this country and Mexico thousands of lives. If the great corporations, in selecting efficient men as employers and foremen, selected kindly and gentlemanly men as well, it would be possible to wipe out to a great degree the prejudice and hate the Mexican has for the "Gringo."

A PROJECT is under way in the national capital for the establishment of schools for the training of adult indigents in order that they may be encouraged and aided to become self-supporting.

GENERAL PABLO VILLANUEVA, Governor of the State of Chiapas, is preparing a law for the regulation of labor, by which it is expected to ameliorate the condition of all classes of working men.

A RECENT strike of the operatives in the cotton factory of Rio Blanco, in the State of Vera Cruz, has been settled satisfactorily by the efforts of the authorities, to whom the matter was referred for adjudication.

THE local agrarian commission of the State of Durango has reported to the National Commission that it has restored the community lands of twelve of the leading pueblos to their rightful owners, while the proper steps are being taken for the prompt restoration of those of other pueblos.

NEWS BREVITIES

Translated from the Mexican Press

THE Governor of Chiapas has appointed members of the Supreme Court of Justice and they have entered upon their duties.

PREPARATIONS are being made for the establishment of a steamer service between Mexican ports and Denmark, Norway, etc.

A WIRELESS telegraph station has been installed in Guadalajara which will afford communication with all the principal points in the Republic.

A NEW train schedule has been inaugurated between Mexico City and Laredo, by which the time to the border has been materially decreased.

GOVERNOR MIGUEL AGUILAR, of the State of Vera Cruz, has announced that the official capital of that State will hereafter be the city of Cordoba.

A PUBLIC library is to be established in Pachuca, capital of the State of Hidalgo, and five thousand volumes have been obtained as a nucleus.

A NORMAL School has been opened in the city of Oaxaca for the purpose of training teachers for the largely increased number of primary schools.

PLANS have been approved by the Secretary of War and Navy for the erection of a military hospital in the city of Pachuca, capital of the State of Hidalgo.

A METEOROLOGICAL observatory has been established at Tacubaya, a suburb of Mexico City, under authorization of Secretary Pastor Rouaix, of the Department of Fomento.

THE Department of Public Health of Mexico City and the Federal District reports unusually favorable health conditions, and that typhus and smallpox cases are at a minimum.

THE Constitutionalist Express Company of Mexico has given notice that the same rates are now in existence as formerly when foreign organizations controlled that business.

THE salaries of all employes of the National Treasury Department have been increased from twenty to twenty-five per cent according to amount and are all payable in specie.

A PARTY of bandits of which Roberto Jameson was one of the leaders was recently dispersed in the mountains of Coahuila. Eight of the number died suddenly, including Señor Jameson.

BECAUSE of the alleviation of economic conditions in the State of Jalisco, Governor Dieguez has given permission for the exportation of grain and other food articles to other sections.

REPORTS from the State of Michoacan are that all kinds of crops have been more abundant than usual and that the farmers have received unusually good prices, causing great satisfaction.

PROJECTS for the construction of upward of twenty new railway lines in all portions of the Republicf, rom Yucatan to Lower California, are now under consideration by the Department of Fomento.

A MOVING picture department has been established by the government and views are being taken illustrative of the progress being made in many branches of public development and improvement.

THE working people of Oaxaca have protested unanimously to the Government against the unjust augmentation of prices of necessaries of life and theofficials are taking energetic measures to remedy the evil.

THE project for the construction of a railroad from Canitas, in the State of Zacatecas, to Durango City, has been approved by the First Chief and it is expected that active operations will be commenced in a short time.

ON November 27th actual construction work was commenced on the new line of railway that is to connect the city of Guadalajara with the Pacific coast port of Chamela, traversing the center of the State of Jalisco.

THE Department of Fomento is planning the reforestation of the entire Federal District, made necessary by the wanton destruction of trees in the past, with concomitant ill effects upon the sources of water supply.

A NEWSPAPER one-half in English and one-half in Spanish has been established in Mexico City under the name of the Mexican News. Copies received by THE REVIEW show that it is well edited and contains much interesting news.

UNDER instructions of Governor Mireles of the State of Coahuila, work is being pushed on a new school for girls in the city of Torreon, which will be one of the largest buildings in the city and one of the most extensive schools in the entire State.

THE National Agrarian Commission is arranging to return the community lands in twenty of the leading pueblos of Zacatecas to their ancient and rightful owners, as also to expropriate certain lands and allot them as community property elsewhere.

NOTICE has been given that regular traffic is now in operation between Nogales, Hermosillo and Guaymas, over the Southern Pacific, while trains are also being run at intervals over the remainder of the line which has been completed to Tepic City.

Two hundred new schools have been established in the State of Michoacan, and in order to supply the teachers that will be needed in the further extension of the school system a Normal School has been inaugurated in Morelia, the capital city.

THE large land owners of Coyoacan, a suburb of Mexico City, have been notified that whatever portion of their holdings is not put in shape for cultivation within fifteen days will be allotted to poor persons desiring to produce a crop without cost in rental.

A DECREE has been issued permitting the importation of all kinds of foreign as well as national money free of duty. There has been for many years an import tax upon importations of Mexican silver dollars, but not upon those of subsidiary silver.

MEXICAN specie is coming rapidly into circulation, owing to the enforcement of the decree for the payment of all salaries and wages in coin, and instructions have been given that the American dollar shall also be received in all commercial transactions.

THE Secretary of Public Instruction and Fine Arts has appointed a commission to secure the return to the National Museum of many objects that disappeared during the revolutionary period. It is believed that many were removed for purposes of safekeeping.

PERMISSION has been asked of the authorities to establish a bank with large capital in the city of Mexico for the purpose solely of aiding the development of the petroleum interests of the Republic. Both Mexican and foreign capitalists are interested in the enterprise.

SEVEN locomotives of high power were recently received at Laredo from the United States for use on the National lines. Constant augmentations to the rolling stock are being made, both by purchase in the United States and by repair and construction in the local shops.

A DECREE for the adequate compensation of miners and other working men who may be injured while employes has been promulgated in the State of Guanajuato. Similar decrees are in force in other States, pending the enactment of a national law governing the matter.

UNDER the instructions of the Department of Education and Fine Arts a series of films is to be made in all portions of the Republic for the purpose of illustrating the progress that is being made in various directions, as well as giving interesting historical and natural scenes.

A NEW School of Agriculture has been established in the State of Jalisco for the education of farmers in modern methods and for the distribution of seeds and plants of value for exploitation. Similar establishments are being inaugurated in many other States as well.

BECAUSE of the inauguration of direct steamer traffic between the ports of the State of Tabasco and various points in the United States, the cultivation of bananas in the State named is receiving great stimulus. The product of that section is notable as being superior in quality and price.

EXPERIMENT has shown that paper pulp of excellent quality can be made from the leaves of the maguey plant and the Government will encourage the development of such industry, in order to provide a source of income to the owners of plantations of this growth, which has hitherto been used solely in the manufacture of pulque.

WORK has been commenced upon the construction of a storage reservoir of ample dimensions for furnishing the city of Pachuca and its neighboring villages with an ample supply of pure water—something that is greatly needed. In the past health conditions have been materially affected by the poor quality of the only available water.

FIVE of the principal banks of emission of the Republic have announced their intention to resume legitimate banking operations after the first of January, 1917, issuing their bills in accordance with the law permitting them to do so —with the express and peremptory requisite that they be redeemed in specie upon demand. These banks are all said to have sufficient specie reserves to protect their issue in the legal manner.

Labor Unions Thank the Governor of Coahuila

THE workingmen in two extensive textile factories in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, have been engaged in a controversy with their employers over the question of wages and hours of labor, and pursuant to request Governor Espinosa Mireles and the Chief of the Department of Labor established by the former, Señor Antonio P. Roaix, having made thorough inquiry into the matter, the entire difficulty was brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

The result of the negotiations was a very considerable augmentation in the pay of employes, together with shorter hours of labor and an amelioration of conditions in various other directions. The members of the Progressive Labor Union, as the organization of the workers is called, have published a letter of thanks to the two officials named, for the manner in which they have carried out the principles of the Revolution in this as in other matters.

SECRETARY CANDIDO AGUILAR

Concluded from page 9

with agreement of reversion, with which the small proprietors had been exploited. Legislation was enacted in the matter of leasing State lands, insuring in this way the property rights of the small farmer. With the suppression of the "pulque" evil a great step also was made towards raising the moral standard of the common classes.

The First Chief always had a great regard for General Aguilar, because he recognized in him one of his most faithful and impartial colaborers. And his appointment to the Cabinet, with the office of Secretary of Foreign Affairs, just as relations with the United States were beginning to be very much complicated by the passing of American troops through the frontiers, shows the unlimited confidence which the President had in him. The General responded to the call and has manifested tactful management, prudence, and patriotism in all the negotiations that come to one in the high position which he now occupies.

Una Excursion por las Americas

Un grupo de personas del "Spanish Forum" de Washington, D. C., emprende una excursión a las ciudades de interés e importancia del Hemisferio Americano.

VIAJEROS

Señor y Señora Martínez
Señorita López
Señorita Molinera
Señor Semanas
Señor Beltrán

Acompañados por el Señor Risueño.

EN EL "SPANISH FORUM"

Sr. Risueño: Supongamos que hacemos un viaje a Súd América o alguna parte.

Varios: ¡Bién! ¡Espléndido! ¡Bravo! ¡Bueno!

Sr. Risueño: ¿Cuántos de ustedes (Vds.) pueden ir?

Sra. Martínez: ¿Usted (Vd.), y usted, y usted? ¿Sí? ¡Cinco de nosotros, Señor Risueño!

Sr. Risueño: ¿A dónde iremos?

Srta. López: Yo deseo ir a Cuba.

Sra. Martínez: Yo iré a Montevideo.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Ah! y yo, a Veracruz.

Sr. Beltrán: Yo iré a la Argentina.

Sr. Risueño: Pero ustedes desean ir a diferentes lugares.

Srta. Molinera: ¡Tanto más interesante!

Sra. Martínez: Todos acordaremos ir a Nueva York primero, yo creo.

Sr. Risueño: ¿Cuán pronto podremos salir?

Sra. Martínez: El Señor Martínez y yo podemos el próximo viernes, sí los demás pueden estar listos en ese tiempo.

Varios: ¿El viernes?

Sra. Martínez: Sí. "¡Mala Suerte!" para el viernes, debería cambiarse.

Srta. López: Entonces, ¡Que lo cambie otro grupo!

Srta. Molinera: Bién, tomemos algún otro día, y todos quedarán satisfechos.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Cosa que todos debieran desear en el mundo!

Sr. Risueño: Muy bien; entonces, ¡para el próximo mártes!

Varios: ¡Aprobado!

Sr. Risueño: ¿Cuántos baúles tomará usted, Señora Martínez? ¿Cuatro? ¡Muchos! !Y dos maletas y tres cajas de sombreros! Usted estará muy elegante! ¿Y el Señor Martínez?

Sr. Martínez: Un baúl, una sombrerera y una maleta!

Sr. Risueño: ¡Bravo! y el Señor Beltrán?

Sr. Beltrán: Una maleta grande y nada más.

Sr. Semanas: Yo, nada llevo. ¡Yo viajo sin nada!

Srta. López: Yo decidiré luego,

Srta. Molinera: Yo tomaré una maleta y talvez un baulito de vapor solamente.

Sr. Risueño: Bién, entonces, el equipaje deber estar listo para el martes por la mañana a las nueve, porque la Compañía Transferencia será informada para recogerlo a las diez y media, o a las once, a más tardar.

Srta. López: ¿Qué hay sobre los boletos?

Sr. Risueño: El Señor Semanas comprará los boletos para nosotros, estoy seguro, ¿no es verdad, Señor Semanas?

Sr. Semanas: Ciertamente, con placer. ¿Serán para Nueva York solamente?

Sr. Risueño: Sí. Quedaremos en Nueva York un día o dos, y obtendremos nuestros boletos del vapor estando allí. Debiéramos escoger nuestra línea de vapores inmediatemente, sin embargo, y telegrafiar por nuestro pasaje.

Srta. Molinera: ¿Tomaremos el tren "Royal Blue" o el "Congressional Limited" a Nueva York?

Sr. Martínez: A mi me gusta el "Limited" si es agradable al resto del grupo.

Sr. Risueño: Muy bién; tomaremos ese tren. Señor Semanas, ¿obtendrá usted los asientos en el "Pullman" para nosotros cuando usted compre los boletos?

Sr. Samanas: Sí; naturalmente.

Sr. Beltrán: Yo cuidaré de que el "Taxi" vaya por todos con tiempo.

Sr. Martínez: Yo estaré ocupado hasta el último minuto, y tomaré el tranvía desde mi oficina hasta la estación.

Sr. Risueño: ¡Bueno! reunámosnos aquí de nuevo el jueves por la noche para hacer nuestros arreglos finales.

Srta. Molinera: Y traígamos nuestro dinero.

Sra. Martínez: ¡Ah, sí! y recibir nuestras instrucciones finales.

Sr. Risueño: ¡Bravo! Hasta el jueves por la noche. ¡Buenas noches!

Sr. Semanas: ¡Hasta el jueves!

Varios: ¡Buenas noches! ¡Buenas noches! ¡Hasta otra vez!

Sr. Risueño: Señor Semanas, mejor que usted no salga como Don Quijote: ¡"Sin maleta y sin dinero!"

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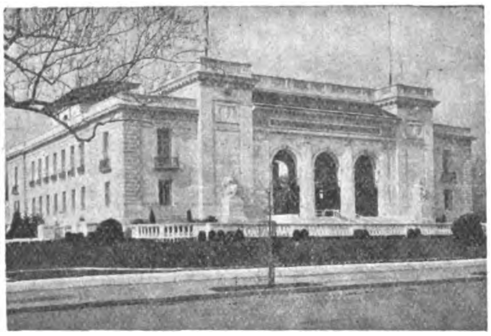

THE PAN AMERICAN UNION

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Una Estrofa Muy Delicada y Hermosa

Amor, dijo la rosa, es un perfume;
Amor es un murmurio, dijo el agua;
Amor es un suspiro, dijo el céfiro;
Amor, dijo la luz, es una llama.
—¡Oh, cuánto habéis mentido!
Amor es una lágrima!

Josefa Murillo.

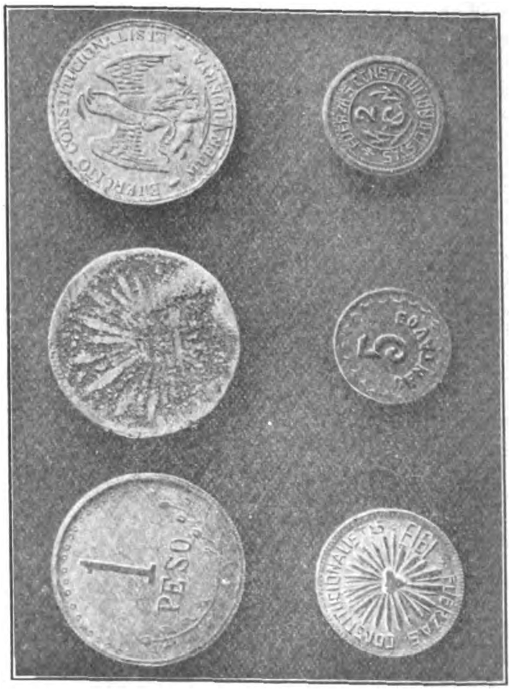
Esta autora, nacida para el amor, quizá en él encontró su primera amargura, y por eso escribió esta delicada y hermosa estrofa. Ellá es considerada como la más hábil y la más recordada y querida poetisa entre las ilustres mujeres escritoras de México.

ODD COINAGE IN MEXICO

Dollar Bearing a Demand of "Death for Huerta" —Coins With a Large Percentage of Gold

THE currency question in Mexico during the past three revolutionary years has been productive of numerous interesting circumstances. That country never had any national paper currency of the same class as the greenbacks, treasury and silver notes of the United States. The only national money was of metal in the shape of ten and five dollar pieces of gold (exactly half the size of the same denomination in American coin), dollars, half-dollars, twenty and ten cent pieces of silver, five cent pieces of nickel and one and two cent coins of copper. What paper currency was in circulation before the revolution was entirely that of banks, issued under governmental supervision and with a rigid requirement that a specie reserve must be maintained and the notes redeemed upon demand.

When the Huerta usurpation began the silver and gold in circulation dropped out of sight in a short time, being hoarded by those who were able to secure it, or smuggled out of the country. Precautions against this however were such that it is probable the greater portion of the entire coinage in the Republic is still in the country, much of it hidden away.



The various revolutionary leaders issued paper to large amounts, while in a number of cases coins were minted, some of them very crudely made but serving their purpose. A notable coinage in Chihuahua was issued at Parral in the shape of silver dollars bearing the device "Muera Huerta," or "Death to Huerta." These soon disappeared from circulation and command a high premium. In Tepic Territory a Constitutionalist General, Carrasco by name, operated a mine that produced bullion carrying a high percentage of gold. This bullion, without being refined and the precious metals separated, was molded in sand in exact imitation of the national peso or dollar. With this money he paid his troops, some 3000 in number, and obtained all the needed supplies, arms, food, clothing, etc. But these coins seldom passed into third hands. It was known that they contained a large percentage of gold, and were worth very much more

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GUATEMALA AND MEXICO

How Friendly Conditions Were Restored Between the Two Countries

ADJUSTMENT of border difficulties which existed between Guatemala and Mexico was a simple matter, according to Dr. James D. Stickell of Chichicastenango, Guatemala, who acted as personal representative of the Guatemalan President, Estrada Cabrera, in the negotiations which led to the resumption of diplomatic relations between the two republics, and who was recently visiting at Hagerstown, Md.

When the Constitutionalists took Mexico City in 1914, the Minister of Guatemala to Mexico, Dr. Ortega, was invited to leave the country by the Carranza Government because of his alleged alliance with Huertistas. It is considered significant that he never returned to his own country, being now in Spain; however, the Minister of Mexico to Guatemala was also handed his passports and diplomatic relations thus severed. Meanwhile the rich Mexican State of Chiapas over the line from Guatemala, was the scene of activities of too many different "sistas" to classify and the borders between that State and Guatemala presented a problem in policing relatively much more difficult than the border problem of the United States, Dr. Stickell says.

Guatemala put as large a force on the border as could then be raised and equipped, and although there were a number of encounters between the Guatemalan forces and bandit bands, no citizens were injured and the rule of never pursuing the invading bands into Mexican territory was adhered to.

After more than a year of maintenance of a large force along the border, the prospects of good crops in Guatemala made the labor demand such that so many men could not well be spared for the army. Dr. Stickell's mission to Mexico succeeded in opening negotiations which resulted in resumption of diplomatic relations between the two republics. Mexico and Guatemala each have soldiers along the border now, but these forces are not much larger than those usually maintained for enforcement of customs laws and other border police duty.

In the light of the experience of Guatemala, Dr. Stickell believes that the first thing to be done by the United States toward restoration of satisfactory conditions in Northern Mexicois the withdrawal of United States troops from Mexico. He considers the presence in Mexico of those troops a disturbing influence.

ODD COINAGE IN MEXICO

Concluded from page 14

than their face value. In consequence those who received them in payment for goods or services lost no time in converting them into refined bullion at a very considerable profit. For mementoes alone the "Carrasco dollars," as they were called, sold readily enough on the border for five or six dollars each in American money.

The State of Oaxaca had a coinage of its own, while Zapata also confiscated bullion and set up a mint. In Chihuahua and Durango brass and copper were minted into subsidiary coinage, and altogether a collection of the different issues made during the Revolution would be curious indeed and would delight the heart of any numismatist.

GUATEMALA

A TAX of one centavo, national currency, has been levied upon each package of machine made cigarettes produced in Guatemala.

THE children of Guatemala have raised a fund for the relief of the suffering children of Belgium and Northern France of over seventeen thousand dollars.

BECAUSE of the high price of American made shoes in Guatemala local manufacturers have been greatly encouraged and that industryis in a flourishing condition.

ON November 22d there was a celebration at Puerto Barrios over the completion of the works for shortening railway communication with the capital, as well as over the introduction of electric lights and an ample supply of pure water into the city.

FROM the 17th to the 25th of November the birthday of Don Estrada Cabrera, President of the Republic, was celebrated in Guatemala city with festivities of various kinds. There were also celebrations in Puerto Barrios and at other important points.

THE importation of cotton goods into Guatemala from the United States last year increased 32 per cent over the previous year. England is the chief competitor. The trade in ready-made garments is not large, as very little of that class of goods is used, although woolen goods are extensively worn.

AMERICAN capitalists are developing two marble quarries in Guatemala from which large results are expected. The stone is said to be 98 per cent pure, is compact and weighs 180 pounds to the cubic foot, and is susceptible to a very high polish. The principal market will be in the United States and South America.

THE decree of the First Chief forbidding bullfighting in any portion of the Republic has been received with approbation, and the press of various citiesnotes the formation of many clubs for playing baseball, football, etc., and many match games are reported, great interest being taken therein by the participants as well as the general public.

THE total value of the sugar crop of Guatemala for the year 1916 is valued at $1,350,000. The area devoted to sugar cane is 76,352 acres and the average production is 42 quintals per acre, worth $4.50 American gold per quintal, or $189 per acre. The industry is extending rapidly, and in amount is only exceeded by the production of coffee.

ON the first of January the International Railway Company began freight and passenger service on its newly located line from Puerto Barrios to Manocia, connecting with Guatemala city and the Pacific coast. By the construction of a tunnel 753 feet in length the grades between the points first mentioned have been greatly reduced and traffic greatly stimulated.

GUATEMALAN officials deny with emphasis the statements published in a portion of the foreign press, either through ignorance or malice, that there is any ground for ill feeling between that Government and the present administration of Mexico. Both powers exchanged Ministers several months ago and all relations are of the most friendly character. Each country is maintaining the integrity of its territory and is active in preventing incursions of so-called revolutionists, but who really are bandits, from one side to the other.

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New Line of West Coast Steamers

A COMPANY has recently been organized in Los Angeles under the title of "The Mexican Navigation and Commercial Company," and comprising a number of well known business men who recognize the possibilities in the way of building up a large and profitable business between the ports of the West Coast of Mexico and those of the United States.

It is the intention of this company to place a line of steel steamers on the run between Los Angeles and West Coast Mexican ports, to make Los Angeles harbor the terminal port and give the merchants of Los Angeles a direct service running on schedule time, so they can develop their trade and have regular steamers to depend on, instead of the haphazard and irregular service now given them by the steamers calling there from San Francisco on the way to Mexican ports.

The company has recently purchased the famous ocean-going steel steam yacht "Ituna," and she is now undergoing extensive repairs at the shipyard of Charles Fulton at Wilmington, fitting out as a first-class freight and passenger vessel. No expense is being spared to make this vessel first-class in every respect.

The first sailing from Port Los Angeles for Mexican ports was scheduled for December 28th, and every fifteen days thereafter.

The company is now negotiating for the purchase of a large steel modern steamship in the East so as to give the Los Angeles merchants the service that they are entitled to, so they can develop their trade with Mexican ports on an equal footing with the merchants of San Francisco.

GOVERNOR MIRELES of the State of Coahuila has reported to the First Chief that conditions in all respects in that State are normalized, that all employes are paid in specie and that the economical crisis no longer exists.

MANY thousands of trees are being planted on the border of Lake Texcoco, in the vicinity of Mexico City. It is also in contemplation to establish a public Arbor Day for the general planting of trees in the Federal District for purposes of reforestation.

GOVERNOR DAVILA of the State of Guanajuato is devoting especial attention to the encouragement of the resumption of operations in the mines of that section, one of the most important in the Republic. All obstacles are being removed so far as possible and work is being generally resumed.

A NEW line of steamers has been established between Tampico and New Orleans and the first steamer sailed from the latter port for its destination with a full cargo. The service will be extended to Vera Cruz and Progreso, and is welcomed by merchants, as in the past they have been much hampered by irregular communication between those places and American ports.

SUPPLEMENTING the decree that required the payment of salaries and wages on the basis of national specie, but with a certain percentage payable in paper at its market value, another has been issued by the First Chief directing that beginning with January 1, 1917, they shall be paid entirely in coin and upon the basis that prevailed in 1912 and 1913. This decree has given great satisfaction, as hastening the return to an entirely specie basis in all transactions. Many large concerns, especially some that are of foreign control, have been paying their help entirely in specie for some time.

LATE NEWS NOTES

Translated from the Mexican Press

GENERAL JOSE SIUROB has resigned his position as Governor of the State of Guanajuato in order to attend to private business, and General Fernando Davila has been nominated Governor ad interim.

A DIKE is to be constructed for the purpose of diverting the water of the Sonora river near the town of Ures and irrigating extensive areas of land in that region which are at present unproductive from lack of water.

ALL Mexican consuls in foreign countries are to be supplied with collections of the various natural and manufactured products of the Republic, with a view to affording information abroad and stimulating trade with foreign dealers.

THE Governor of Sonora reports that complete tranquility prevails in that State and that there is no obstacle to prevent the resumption of operations in all the mines. Many have already resumed and others are preparing to do so.

LIQUOR dealers in Yucatan have sought to evade the law by selling wines which have been found to be "saturated with alcohol." The vending of light wines is permitted, and steps are now being taken to punish the evasion described.

A LOCAL Agrarian Commission has been established by the Government in the State of Oaxaca and has begun active operations in the restorations of the "ejidos," or community lands of the Indians, to their rightful former owners.

REPORTS from the State of Tlaxcala, one of the corn producing sections in proximity to the national capital, are that corn is so abundant as to sell at retail for less than one cent American currency per pound, or about fifty cents per bushel.

LANDLORDS in the Federal District, which includes the city of Mexico, having increased rents to an unwarranted degree, orders have been issued that they must be restored to the exact amount paid in 1912, national specie being the basis therefor.

IN common with the method adopted in many portions of the Republic, the authorities in Merida, the capital of Yucatan, publish a price list for food articles of prime necessity, giving both wholesale and retail figures, above which it is made illegal to demand.

COMMENCING with the first of January all taxes of whatever nature due the Federal Government are to be paid in specie, with the single exception that twenty per cent of the cost of stamps may still be received in paper at the current market value.

A WOMAN'S political club has been organized in the town of Maxcanu in the State of Yucatan which is taking an active part in promoting the candidacy of Carranza for President of the Republic and of General Alvarado for Governor of the State of Yucatán, to succeed himself.

EXTENSIVE improvements are contemplated by the Department of Communications and Public Works in the Panuco river and for the draining of the Laguna del Carpintero, thus making another artificial port largely for the accommodation of the increasing petroleum business of that section.

IT is expected that the extensive paper manufactory at San Rafael, a suburb of Mexico City, will be in operation within a brief period for the production of news print paper. Scarcity of such paper has hampered the periodicals of the Republic very seriously for an extended period, prices being nearly or quite double those prevailing in the United States. This will now be remedied, there being an unlimited supply of raw material for the making of pulp. The factory in question is largely the property of French stockholders.

A PROJECT is under discussion for the construction of a railway from Matamoras, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, along the entire Mexican border to the Gulf of California. The present railway lines are all on north and south lines and communication between the northern States from east to west is very difficult. Such a line would open some very rich sections which have not been developed owing to lack of transportation facilities. In this connection it is also proposed to construct port works on the Mexican side of the mouth of the Rio Grande.

THE authorities of the Federal District, after careful examination of the cost of the various food articles of prime necessity, have prepared a list of wholesale and retail rates above which it is unlawful to charge. The dealers have been demanding prices far in excess of cost, and from one to two hundred per cent more than in the past, although transactions are all based on specie, and this measure became necessary in order to curb the rapacity of the merchants.

THE chief clerk of the Department of Hacienda announces that under the old stamp tax system the average receipts from that source have been at the rate of $72,000,000 specie per annum. Under the new system recently announced the income from stamps will be approximately $120,000,000 annually in specie. In the fiscal year 1913-14 the total receipts from this source were $42,575,000 which was over $10,000,000 larger than for the previous year. The total income from all sources of the Federal government for the year first mentioned was $129,607,000 and for the previous year $105,200,000, from which it will be seen that the stamp taxes alone this year will amount to almost as much as the entire income for the year 1913-14.

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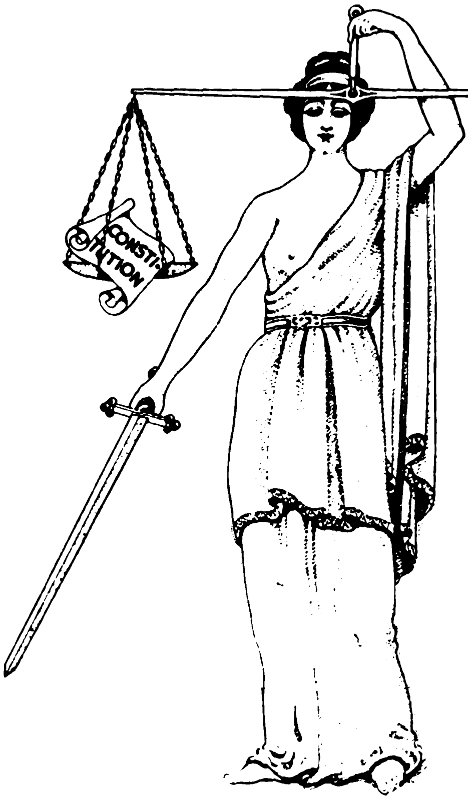
The Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT
TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT
OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

VOL. I WASHINGTON, D. C., MARCH, 1917 NO. 6

MEXICAN CONSTITUTION OF 1917



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Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico

Signed January 31, 1917, and Promulgated February 5, 1917

(Translated for The Mexican Review by H. N. Branch)

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TITLE I

CHAPTER I

OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN

Article 1—Every person in the United States of Mexico shall enjoy all rights prescribed by this Constitution; these rights shall neither be abridged nor suspended except in such cases and under such conditions as herein provided.

Art. 2—Slavery is forbidden in the United States of Mexico. Slaves who set foot upon the national territory shall by this very act recover their freedom and enjoy the protection of the law.

Art. 3—Instruction is free; that given in public institutions of learning shall be non-sectarian. Primary instruction, whether higher or lower, given in private institutions shall likewise be non-sectarian.

No religious corporation nor minister of any religious creed shall be permitted to establish or direct schools of primary instruction.

Private primary schools may be established only subject to official supervision.

Primary instruction in public institutions shall be free.

Art. 4—No person shall be prevented from engaging in any profession, industrial or commercial pursuit or occupation which he may deem fit, provided it be lawful. The exercise of this liberty may only be forbidden by judicial order when the rights of third persons are infringed, or by executive order, issued under the conditions prescribed by law, when the rights of society are affected. No one shall be deprived of the fruit of his labor except by judicial decree.

Each State shall determine by law what professions shall require licenses, the requisites to be complied with in obtaining the same, and the authorities empowered to issue them.

Art. 5—No one shall be compelled to render personal services without just compensation and without his full consent, excepting labor imposed as a punishment by judicial decree, which shall conform to the provisions of subdivisions I and II of Article 123.

Only the following public services shall be obligatory, subject to the conditions set forth in the respective laws: military service, jury service, service in municipal and other public elective office, whether this election be direct or indirect, and service in connection with elections which shall be obligatory and without compensation.

The State shall not permit any contract, covenant or agreement to be carried out having for its object the abridgment, loss or irrevocable sacrifice of the liberty of man, whether by reason of labor, education or religious vows. The law, therefore, does not recognize the establishment of monastic orders, of whatever denomination, or for whatever purpose contemplated.

Nor shall any person legally agree to his own proscription or exile, or to the temporary or permanent renunciation of the exercise of any profession or industrial or commercial pursuit.

A contract for labor shall only be binding to render the services agreed upon for the time fixed by law and shall not exceed one year to the prejudice of the party rendering the service; nor shall it in any case whatsoever embrace the waiver, loss or abridgment of any political or civil right.

In the event of a breach of such contract on the part of the party pledging himself to render the service, the said party shall only be liable civilly for damages arising from such breach, and in no event shall coercion against his person be employed.

Art. 6—The expression of ideas shall not be the subject of any judicial or executive investigation, unless it offend good morals, impair the rights of third parties, incite to crime or cause a breach of the peace.

Art. 7—Freedom of writing and publishing writings on any subject is inviolable. No law or authority shall have the right to establish censorship, require bond from authors or printers, or restrict the liberty of the press, which shall be limited only by the respect due to private life, morals and public peace. Under no circumstances shall a printing press be sequestrated as the *corpus delicti*.

The organic laws shall prescribe whatever provisions may be necessary to prevent the imprisonment, under pretext of a denunciation of offenses of the press, of the vendors, newsboys, distributors, workmen and other employees of the establishment publishing the writing denounced, unless their responsibility be previously established. Public officials and employees shall respect the exercise of the right of petition, provided it be in writing and in a peaceful and respectful manner; but this right may be exercised in political matters solely by citizens.

To every petition there shall be given an answer in writing by the official to whom it may be addressed, and said official shall be bound to inform the petitioner of the decision taken within a brief period.

Art. 9—The right peaceably to assemble or to come together for any lawful purpose shall not be abridged; but only citizens shall be permitted to do so in order to take part in the political affairs of the country. No armed assembly shall have the right to deliberate.

No meeting or assembly shall be deemed unlawful, nor may it be dissolved, which shall have for its purpose the petitioning of any authority or the presentation of any protest against any act, provided no insults are proffered against the said authority, nor violence resorted to, nor threats used to intimidate or to compel the said authority to render a favorable decision.

Art. 10—The inhabitants of the United States of Mexico are entitled to have arms of any kind in their possession for their protection and legitimate defense, excepting such as are expressly prohibited by law and such as the nation may reserve for the exclusive use of the army, navy and national guard; but they shall not bear such arms within inhabited places except subject to the police regulations thereof.

Art 11—Every man has the right to enter and leave the Republic, to travel through its territory and change his residence without necessity of a letter of security, passport, safe conduct or any other similar requirement. The exercise of this right shall be subordinated to the powers of the judiciary, in the event of civil or criminal responsibility, and to those of the executive insofar as relates to the limitation imposed by law in regard to emigration, immigration, and the public health of the country, or in regard to undesirable foreigners resident in the country.

Art. 12—No titles of nobility, prerogatives or hereditary honors shall be granted in the United States of Mexico, nor shall any effect be given to those granted by other countries.

Art. 13—No one shall be tried according to special laws or by special tribunals. No person or corporation shall have privileges or enjoy emoluments which are not in compensation for public services and established by law. Military jurisdiction shall be recognized for the trial of criminal cases having direct connection with military discipline; but the military tribunals shall in no case and for no reason extend their jurisdiction over persons not belonging to the army. Whenever a civilian shall be implicated in any military crime or offense, the cause shall be heard by the corresponding civil authorities.

Art. 14—No law shall be given retroactive effect to the injury of any person whatsoever.

No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, possessions or rights without due process of law instituted before a duly created court, in which the essential elements of procedure are observed and in accordance with previously existing laws.

In criminal cases no penalty shall be imposed by mere analogy or even by *a priori* evidence, but the penalty shall be decreed by a law in every respect applicable to the crime in question.

In civil suits the final judgment shall be according to the letter or the juridical interpretation of the law; in the absence of the latter the general legal principles shall govern.

Art. 15—No treaty shall be made for the extradition of political offenders, or of offenders of the common class, who have been slaves in the country where the offense was committed. Nor shall any agreement or treaty be entered into which abridges or modifies the guarantees and rights which this Constitution grants to the individual and to the citizen.

Art. 16—No one shall be molested in his person, family, domicile, p[illegible] or possessions except by virtue of [illegible] in writing of the competent aut[illegible] forth the legal ground and [illegible] the action taken. No ord[illegible]tention shall be issued ag[illegible]n other than by competent j[illegible]rity, nor unless preceded by a[illegible]cusation or complaint for a spe[illegible]se punishable by imprisonment, s[illegible] by an affidavit of a credible party [illegible]y such other evidence as shall make the guilt of the accused probable; in cases *in flagrante delicto* any person may arrest the offender and his accomplices, placing them without delay at the disposition of the nearest authorities. Only in urgent cases instituted by the public attorney without previous complaint or indictment and when there is no judicial authority available may the administrative authorities, on their strictest accountability, order the detention of the accused, placing him at the disposition of the judicial authorities. Every search warrant, which may only be issued by the judicial authority and which must be in writing shall specify the place to be searched, the person or persons to be arrested and the objects sought to which the proceeding shall be strictly limited; at the conclusion of which a detailed written statement shall be drawn up in the presence of two witnesses proposed by the occupant of the place to be searched or in his absence or refusal by the official making the search.

Administrative officials may enter private houses solely for the purpose of determining that the sanitary and police regulations have been complied with; they may likewise demand the exhibition of books and documents necessary to prove that the fiscal regulations have been obeyed, subject to the respective laws and to the formalities prescribed for cases of search.

Art. 17—No one shall be imprisoned for debts of a purely civil character. No one shall take the law into his own hands, nor resort to violence in the enforcement of his rights. The courts shall be open for the administration of justice at such times and under such conditions as the law may establish; their services shall be gratuitous and all judicial costs are accordingly prohibited.

Art. 18—Detention shall be inflicted only for offenses meriting corporal punishment. The place of detention shall be different and completely separated from that set apart for the serving of sentences.

The Federal and State Governments shall organize in their respective territories the penal system—penal colonies or prisons—on the basis of labor as a means of regeneration.

Art. 19—No detention shall exceed three days except for reasons specified by the formal order of commitment, which shall set forth the offense charged, the substance thereof, the time, place and circumstances of its commission, and the facts disclosed in the preliminary examination. The said facts must always be sufficient to establish the *corpus delicti* and the probable guilt of the accused. All authorities ordering any detention or consenting thereto, as well as all agents, subordinates, wardens or jailers, executing the same, shall be liable for any breach of this provision.

The trial shall take place only for the offense or offenses set forth in the formal order of commitment. If it shall develop in the course of trial that another offense different from that charged has been committed, a separate accusation must be brought. This, however, shall not prevent the joinder of both causes of action, if deemed advisable.

Any maltreatment during apprehension or confinement; any molestation inflicted without legal justification; any exaction or contribution levied in prison are abuses which the law shall correct and the authorities punish.

Art. 20—In every criminal trial the accused shall enjoy the following guarantees:

I—He shall be set at liberty on demand and upon giving a bond up to ten thousand pesos, according to his status and the gravity of the offense charged, provided, however, that the said offense shall not be punishable with more than five years' imprisonment; he shall be set at liberty without any further requisite than the placing of the stipulated sum at the disposal of the proper authorities or the giving of an adequate mortgage bond or personal security.

II—He may not be forced to be a witness against himself; wherefore denial of access or other means looking towards this end is hereby strictly prohibited.

III—He shall be publicly notified within forty-eight hours after being turned over to the judicial authorities of the name of his accuser and of the nature of and cause for the accusation, so that he may be familiar with the offense with which he is charged, may reply thereto and make his preliminary statement.

IV—He shall be confronted with the witnesses against him, who shall testify in his presence if they are to be found in the place where the trial is being held, so that he may cross-examine them in his defense.

V—All witnesses which he shall offer shall be heard in his defense, as well as all evidence received, for which he shall be given such time as the law may prescribe; he shall furthermore be assisted in securing the presence of any person or persons whose testimony he may desire, provided they are to be found at the place of trial.

VI—He shall be entitled to a public trial by a judge or jury of citizens who can read and write and are also citizens of the place and district where the offense shall have been committed, provided the penalty for such offense be greater than one year's imprisonment. The accused shall always be entitled to trial by jury for all offenses committed by means of the press against the public peace or against the safety, domestic or foreign, of the Republic.

VII—He shall be furnished with all information of record needed for his defense.

VIII—He shall be tried within four months if charged with an offense the maximum penalty for which does not exceed two years' imprisonment, and within one year if the maximum penalty be greater.

IX—He shall be heard in his own defense, either personally or by counsel, or by both, as he may desire. In case he shall have no one to defend him, a list of official counsel shall be submitted to him in order that he may choose one or more to act in his defense. If the accused shall not desire to name any counsel for his defense, after having been called upon to do so at the time of his preliminary examination, the court shall appoint counsel to defend him. The accused may name his counsel immediately on arrest and shall be entitled to have him present at every stage of the trial; but he will be bound to make him appear as often as required by the Court.

X—In no event may imprisonment or detention be extended through failure to pay counsel fees or through any other pecuniary charge, by virtue of any civil liability or other similar cause. Nor shall detention be extended beyond the time set by law as the maximum for the offense charged.

The period of detention shall be reckoned as a part of the final sentence.

Art. 21—The imposition of all penalties is an exclusive attribute of the judiciary. The prosecution of offenses belongs to the public prosecutor and to the judicial police, who shall be under the immediate command and authority of the public prosecutor. The punishment of violations of municipal and police regulations belongs to the administrative authorities, and shall consist only of a fine or of imprisonment not exceeding thirty-six hours. Should the offender fail to pay the fine this shall be substituted by the corresponding period of arrest, which shall in no case exceed fifteen days.

Should the offender be a workman or unskilled laborer, he shall not be punished with a fine greater than the amount of his week's wages or salary.

Art 22—Punishments by mutilation and infamy, by branding, flogging, beating with sticks, torture of any kind, excessive fines, confiscation of property and any other unusual and excessive penalties, are prohibited.

Attachment proceedings of the whole or part of the property of any person made under judicial authority to cover any civil liability arising out of the commission of any offense, or by reason of the imposition of any tax or fine, shall not be deemed a confiscation of property.

Capital punishment is likewise forbidden for all political offenses; in the case of offenses other than political it shall only be imposed for high treason committed during a foreign war, parricide, murder with malice aforethought, arson, abduction, highway robbery, piracy, and grave military offenses.

Art. 23—No criminal case shall have more than three instances. No one, whether acquitted or condemned, shall be tried twice for the same offense. Verdicts of "not proven" are abolished.

Art. 24—Every man is free to embrace the religion of his choice and to practice such ceremony, devotions or observances of the respective creed, either in places of public worship or at home, provided they do not constitute an offense punishable by law.

Every religious act of public worship shall be performed strictly within the places of public worship, which shall be at all times under governmental supervision.

Art. 25—Correspondence sent through the mails is inviolable and shall be free from search. The violation of this provision shall be punishable by law.

Art. 26—No member of the army shall in time of peace be quartered in private dwellings, without the consent of the owner; nor shall any other exaction be demanded. In time of war the military may demand lodging, equipment, provisions and other assistance, in the manner provided by the corresponding martial law.

Art. 27—The ownership of lands and waters within the limits of the national territory is vested originally in the Nation, which has had and has the right to transmit title thereof to private persons, thereby constituting private property.

Private property shall not be expropriated except for cause of public utility* and by means of indemnification.

The Nation shall have at all times the right to impose on private property such limitations as the public interest may demand as well as the right to regulate the development of natural resources, which are susceptible of appropriation, in order to conserve them and equitably to distribute the public wealth. For this purpose necessary measures shall be taken to divide large landed estates; to develop small landed holdings; to establish new centers of rural population with such lands and waters as may be indispensable to them; to encourage agriculture and to prevent the destruction of natural resources and to protect property from damage detrimental to society. Settlements, hamlets situated on private property and communes which lack lands or water or do not possess them in sufficient quantities for their needs shall have the right to be provided with them from the adjoining properties, always having due regard for small landed holdings. Wherefore, all grants of lands made up to the present time under the decree of January 6, 1915, are confirmed. Private property acquired for the said purposes shall be considered as taken for public use. In the Nation is vested direct ownership of all minerals or substances which in veins, masses, or beds constitute deposits whose nature is different from the components of the land, such as minerals from which metals and metaloids used for industrial purposes are extracted; beds of precious stones, rock salt and salt lakes formed directly by marine waters, products derived from the decomposition of rocks, when their exploitation requires underground work; phosphates which may be used for fertilizers; solid mineral fuels; petroleum and all hydrocarbons—solid, liquid or gaseous.

In the Nation is likewise vested the ownership of the waters of territorial seas to the extent and in the terms fixed by the law of nations; those of lakes and inlets of bays; those of interior lakes of natural formation which are directly connected with flowing waters; those of principal rivers or tributaries from the points at which their courses become permanently identifiable to their mouths, whether they flow to the sea or cross two or more States; those of intermittent streams which traverse two or more States in their main body; the waters of rivers, streams, or ravines, when they bound the national territory or that of the States; waters extracted from mines; and the beds and banks of the lakes and streams hereinbefore mentioned, to the extent fixed by law. Any other stream of water not comprised within the foregoing enumeration shall be considered as an integral part of the private property through which it flows; but the development of the waters when they pass from one landed property to another shall be considered of public utility and shall be subject to the provisions prescribed by the States.

In the cases to which the two foregoing paragraphs refer, the ownership of the Nation is inalienable and may not be lost by prescription; concessions shall be granted by the Federal Government to private parties or civil or commercial corporations organized under the laws of Mexico, only on condition that said resources be regularly developed, and on the further condition that the legal provisions be observed.

Legal capacity to acquire ownership of lands and waters of the nation shall be governed by the following provisions:

I—Only Mexicans by birth or naturalization and Mexican companies have the right to acquire ownership in lands, waters and their appurtenances, or to obtain concessions to develop mines, waters or mineral fuels in the Republic of Mexico. The Nation may grant the same right to foreigners, provided they agree before the Department of Foreign Affairs to be considered Mexicans in respect to such property, and accordingly not to invoke the protection of their Governments in respect to the same, under penalty, in case of breach, of forfeiture to the Nation of property so acquired. Within a zone of 100 kilometers from the frontiers, and of 50 kilometers from the sea coast no foreigner shall under any conditions acquire direct ownership of lands and waters.

II—The religious associations known as churches, irrespective of creed, shall in no case have legal capacity to acquire, hold or administer real property or loans made on such real property; all such real property or loans as may be at present held by the said religious associations either on their own behalf, or through third parties, shall vest in the Nation, and any one shall have the right to denounce property so held. Presumptive proof shall be sufficient to declare the denunciation well-founded. Places of public worship are the property of the Nation, as represented by the Federal Government, which shall determine which of them may continue to be devoted to their present purposes. Episcopal residences, rectories, seminaries, orphan asylums or collegiate establishments of religious associations, convents or any other buildings built or designed for the administration, propaganda, or teaching the tenets of any religious sect shall forthwith vest, as of full right, directly in the Nation, to be used exclusively for the public services of the Federation or of the States, within their respective jurisdictions. All places of public worship which shall later be erected shall be the property of the nation.

III—Public and private charitable institutions for the sick and needy, for scientific research, or for the diffusion of knowledge, mutual aid societies, or organizations formed for any other purpose shall in no case acquire, hold and administer loans made on real property, unless the mortgage terms do not exceed ten years. In no case shall institutions of this character be under the patronage, direction, administration, charge or supervision of religious corporations or institutions, nor of ministers of any religious sect or of their dependents, even though either the former or the latter shall not be in service.

IV—Commercial stock companies may not acquire, hold, or administer rural properties. Companies of this nature which may be organized to develop any manufacturing, mining, petroleum or other industry, excepting only agricultural industries, may acquire, hold or administer lands only in an area absolutely necessary for their establishments or adequate to serve the purposes indicated, which the Executive of the Union or of the State in each case shall determine.

V—The banks duly organized under the laws governing institutions of credit may make mortgage loans on rural and urban property in accordance with the provisions of the said laws, but they may not own or administer more real property than that absolutely necessary for their direct purposes; and they may furthermore hold temporarily for the brief term fixed by law such real property as may be judicially adjudicated to them in execution proceedings.

VI—Properties held in common by co-owners, hamlets situated on private property, pueblos, tribal congregations and other settlements which, as a matter of fact or law, conserve their communal character, shall have legal capacity to enjoy in common the waters, woods and lands belonging to them, or which may have been or shall be restored to them according to the law of January 6, 1915, until such time as the manner of making the division exclusively of the lands shall be determined by law.

VII—Excepting the corporations to which Clauses III, IV, V and VI hereof refer no other civil corporation may hold or administer on its own behalf real estate or mortgage loans derived therefrom, with the single exception of buildings designed directly and immediately for the purposes of the institution. The States, the Federal District and the Territories as well as the Municipalities throughout the Republic shall enjoy full legal capacity to acquire and hold all real estate necessary for public services.

The Federal and State laws shall determine within their respective jurisdictions those cases in which the occupation of private property is to be considered of public utility; and in accordance with the said laws the administrative authorities shall make the corresponding declaration. The amount fixed as compensation for the expropriated property shall be based on the sum at which the said property shall be valued for fiscal purposes in the catastral or revenue offices, whether this value be that manifested by the owner or merely impliedly accepted by reason of the payment of his taxes on such a basis, to which basis there shall be added ten per cent. The increased value which the property in question may have acquired through improvements made subsequent to the date of the fixing of the fiscal value shall be the only matter subject to expert opinion and to judicial determination. The same procedure shall be observed in respect to objects whose value is not recorded in the revenue offices.

All proceedings, dispositions, decisions and all operations of demarcation, concession, composition, judgment, compromise, alienation, or auction which may have deprived properties held in common by co-owners, hamlets situated on private property, settlements, congregations, tribes and other settlement organizations still existing since the law of June 25, 1856, of the whole or a part of their lands, woods and waters, are declared null and void; all dispositions, resolutions and operations which may subsequently take place and produce the same effects shall likewise be null and void. Consequently all lands, forests and waters of which the above-mentioned settlements may have been deprived shall be restored to them according to the decree of January 6, 1915, which shall remain in force as a constitutional law. In case the adjudication of lands, by way of restitution be not legal in the terms of the said decree which adjudication should have been requested by any of the above entities, those lands shall nevertheless be given to them by way of grant, and they shall in no event fail to receive such as they may need. Only such lands, title to which may have been acquired in the divisions made by virtue of the said law of June 25, 1856, or such as may be held in undisputed ownership for more than ten years are excepted from the provision of nullity, provided their area does not exceed fifty hectares. Any excess over this area shall be returned to the commune and the owner shall be indemnified. All laws of restitution enacted by virtue of this provision shall be immediately carried into effect by the administrative authorities. Only members of the commune shall have the right to the lands destined to be divided and the rights to these lands shall be inalienable so long as they remain undivided; the same provision shall govern the right of ownership after the division has been made. The exercise of the rights pertaining to the Nation by virtue of this article shall be made by judicial process; but as a part of this process and by order of the proper tribunals, which order shall be issued within the maximum period of one month, the administrative authorities shall proceed without delay to the occupation, administration, auction, or sale of the lands and waters in question, together with all their appurtenances, and in no case may the acts of the said authorities be set aside until final sentence is handed down.

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* While the term "public utility" may be somewhat misleading, it is felt that that of "public use" may be even more so. The same expression (*"por causa de utilidad publica"*) is to be found in the 1857 Constitution, and has always been interpreted by the courts of Mexico in the sense of public *interest*, as in the case of land expropriated for the surface work of a mine, etc. H. N. B.

During the next constitutional term, the Congress and the State Legislatures shall enact laws within their respective jurisdictions for the purpose of carrying out the division of large landed estates subject to the following conditions:

(a)—In each State and Territory there shall be fixed the maximum area of land which any one individual or legally organized corporation may own.

(b)—The excess of the area fixed shall be subdivided by the owner within the period set by the laws of the respective locality; and these subdivisions shall be offered for sale on such conditions as the respective governments shall approve, in accordance with the said laws.

(c) If the owner shall refuse to make the subdivision, this shall be carried out by the local government, by means of expropriation proceedings.

(d)—The value of the subdivisions shall be paid in annual amounts sufficient to amortize the principal and interest within a period of not less than twenty years, during which the person acquiring them may not alienate them. The rate of interest shall not exceed five per cent per annum.

(e)—The owner shall be bound to receive special bonds to guarantee the payment of the property expropriated. With this end in view the Congress shall issue a law authorizing the States to issue bonds to meet their agrarian obligations.

(f)—The local laws will govern the extent of family estate, determining what property will constitute the same on the basis of its inalienability; it shall not be subject to attachment nor to any charge.

All contracts and concessions made my former governments from and after the year 1876 which shall have resulted in the monopoly of lands, waters and natural resources of the Nation by a single individual or corporation, are declared subject to revision, and the Executive is authorized to declare those null and void which seriously prejudice the public interest.

Art. 28—There shall be no private nor governmental monopolies of any kind whatsoever in the United States of Mexico; nor exemption from taxation; nor any prohibition even under cover of protection to industry, excepting only those relating to the coinage of money, to the postal, telegraphic, and radiotelegraphic services, to the issuance of bills by a single banking institution to be controlled by the Federal Government, and to the privileges which for a limited period the law may concede to authors and artists for the reproduction of their work; and lastly to those granted inventors or improvers of inventions for the exclusive use of their inventions.

The law will accordingly severely punish and the authorities diligently prosecute any accumulating or cornering by one or more persons of necessaries for the purpose of bringing about a rise in price; any act or measure which shall stifle or endeavor to stifle free competition in any production, industry, trade or public service; any agreement or combination of any kind entered into by producers, manufacturers, merchants, common carriers or other public or quasi-public service, to stifle competition and to compel the consumer to pay exorbitant prices; and in general whatever constitutes an unfair and exclusive advantage in favor of one or more specified person or persons to the detriment of the public in general or of any special class of society.

Associations of labor organized to protect their own interests shall not be deemed a monopoly. Nor shall cooperative associations or unions of producers be deemed monopolies when, in defense of their own interests or of the general public, they sell directly in foreign markets national or industrial products which are the principal source of wealth of the region in which they are produced, provided they be not necessaries, and provided further that such associations be under the supervision or protection of the Federal Government or of that of the States, and provided further that authorization be in each case obtained from the respective legislative bodies. These legislative bodies may, either on their own initiative or on the recommendation of the executive, revoke, whenever the public interest shall so demand, the authorization granted for the establishment of the associations in question.

Art. 29—In cases of invasion, grave disturbance of the public peace, or any other emergency which may place society in grave danger or conflict, the President of the Republic of Mexico, and no one else, with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, and with the approval of the Congress, or if the latter shall be in recess, of the Permanent Committee, shall have power to suspend throughout the whole Republic or in any portion thereof, such rights as shall be a hindrance in meeting the situation promptly and readily, but such suspension shall in no case be confined to a particular individual, but shall be made by means of a general decree and only for a limited period. If the suspension should occur while the Congress is in session, this body shall grant such powers as in its judgment the executive may need to meet the situation; if the suspension occur while the Congress is in recess, the Congress shall be convoked forthwith for the granting of such powers.

CHAPTER II

OF MEXICANS

Article 30—A Mexican shall be such either by birth or by naturalization.

I—Mexicans by birth are those born of Mexican parents, within or without the Republic, provided in the latter case the parents be also Mexicans by birth. Those born within the Republic of foreign parentage shall likewise be considered Mexicans by birth, who within one year after they come of age shall declare to the Department of Foreign Affairs that they elect Mexican citizenship, and who shall furthermore prove to the said Department that they have resided within the country during the last six years immediately prior to the said declaration.

II—Mexicans by naturalization are:

(a)—The children of foreign parentage born in the country, who shall elect Mexican citizenship in the manner prescribed in the foregoing clause, and in whom the residence qualification required in the said section does not concur.

(b)—Those persons who shall have resided in the country for five consecutive years, have an honest means of livelihood and shall have obtained their naturalization from the said Department of Foreign Affairs.

(c)—Those of mixed Indian and Latin descent who may have established residence in the Republic, who shall have manifested their intention to acquire Mexican citizenship.

In the cases stipulated in these sections, the law shall determine the manner of proving the requisites therein demanded.

Art. 31—It shall be the duty of every Mexican:

I—To compel the attendance at either private or public schools of their children or wards, when under fifteen years of age, in order that they may receive primary instruction and military training for such periods as the law of public instruction in each State shall determine.

II—To attend on such days and at such hours as the town council shall in each case prescribe, to receive such civic instruction and military training as shall fit them to exercise their civic rights, shall make them skillful in the handling of arms and familiar with military discipline.

III—To enlist and serve in the national guard, pursuant to the respective organic law for the purpose of preserving and defending the independence, territory, honor, rights and interests of the Fatherland, as well as domestic peace and order.

IV—To contribute in the proportional and equitable manner provided by law toward the public expenses of the federation, the State and the municipality in which he resides.

Art. 32—Mexicans shall be preferred under equal circumstances to foreigners for all kinds of concessions and for all public employments, offices or commissions, when citizenship is not indispensable. No foreigner shall serve in the army nor in the police corps nor in any other department of public safety during times of peace.

Only Mexicans by birth may belong to the national navy, or fill any office or commission therein. The same requisite shall be required for captains, pilots, masters and chief engineers of Mexican merchant ships, as well as for two-thirds of the members of the crew.

CHAPTER III

OF FOREIGNERS

Article 33—Foreigners are those who do not possess the qualifications prescribed by Article 30. They shall be entitled to the rights granted by Chapter I, Title I, of the present Constitution; but the Executive shall have the exclusive right to expel from the Republic forthwith and without judicial process, any foreigner whose presence he may deem inexpedient.

No foreigner shall meddle in any way whatsoever in the political affairs of the country.

CHAPTER IV

OF MEXICAN CITIZENS

Article 34—Mexican citizenship shall be enjoyed only by those Mexicans who have the following qualifications:

I—Are over 21 years of age, if unmarried, and over 18, if married.

II—Have an honest means of livelihood.

Art. 35—The prerogatives of citizens are:

I—To vote at popular elections.

II—To be eligible for any elective office and be qualified for any other office or commission provided they have the other qualifications required by law.

III—To assemble to discuss the political affairs of the country.

IV—To serve in the army or national guard for the defense of the Republic and its institutions as by law determined.

V—To exercise the right of petition in any matter whatever.

Art. 36—It shall be the duty of every Mexican citizen:

I—To register in the polls of the municipality, setting forth any property he may own and his professional or industrial pursuit, or occupation; and also to register in the electoral registration lists, as by law determined.

II—To enlist in the national guard:

III—To vote at popular elections in the electoral district to which he belongs.

IV—To fill the elective Federal or State offices to which he may be chosen which shall in no case be gratuitous.

V—To serve on the town council of the municipality wherein he resides and to perform all electoral and jury service.

Art. 37—Citizenship shall be lost:

I—By naturalization in a foreign country.

II—By officially serving the government of another country, or accepting its decorations, titles or employment without previous permission of the Federal Congress, excepting literary, scientific and humanitarian titles which may be accepted freely.

III—By compromising themselves in any way before ministers of any religious creed or before any other person not to observe the present Constitution, or the laws arising thereunder.

Art. 38—The rights or prerogatives of citizenship shall be suspended for the following reasons:

I—Through failure to comply without sufficient cause with any of the obligations imposed by Article 36. This suspension shall last for one year and shall be in addition to any other penalties prescribed by law for the same offense.

II—Through being subjected to criminal prosecution for an offense punishable with imprisonment, such suspension to be reckoned from the date of the formal order of commitment.

III—Throughout the term of imprisonment.

IV—Through vagrancy or habitual drunkenness, declared in the manner provided by law.

V—Through being a fugitive from justice, the suspension to be reckoned from the date of the order of arrest until the prescription of the criminal action.

VI—Through any final sentence which shall decree as a penalty such suspension.

The law shall determine the cases in which civic rights may be lost or suspended and the manner in which they may be regained.

TITLE II

CHAPTER I

OF THE NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

Article 39—The national sovereignty is vested essentially and originally in the people. All public power emanates from the people and is instituted for their benefit. The people have at all times the inalienable right to alter or modify their form of government.

Art. 40—It is the will of the Mexican people to constitute themselves into a democratic, federal, representative republic, consisting of States free and sovereign in all that concerns their internal affairs, but united in a federation according to the principles of this fundamental law.

Art. 41—The people exercise their sovereignty through the federal powers in the matters belonging to the Union, and through those of the States in the matters relating to the internal administration of the latter. This power shall be exercised in the manner respectively established by the Constitutions, both Federal and State. The constitutions of the States shall in no case contravene the stipulations of the Federal constitution.

CHAPTER II

OF THE INTEGRAL PARTS OF THE FEDERATION AND THE NATIONAL TERRITORY

Article 42—The National Territory comprises the integral parts of the Federation and the adjacent islands in both oceans. It likewise comprises the Island of Guadalupe, those of Revillagigedo, and that of "La Pasion," situated in the Pacific Ocean.

Art. 43—The integral parts of the Federation are: The States of Aguascalientes, Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Chihuahua, Durango, Guanajuato, Guerrero, Hidalgo, Jalisco, México, Michoacañ, Morelos, Nayarit, Nuevo Leon, Oaxaca, Puebla, Querétaro, San Luis Potosi, Sinaloa, Sonora, Tabasco, Tamaulipas, Tlaxcala, Veracruz, Yucatan, Zacatecas, the Federal District, the Territory of Lower California, and the Territory of Quintana Roo.

Art. 44—The Federal District shall embrace its present territory; in the event of the removal of the Federal Powers to some other place it shall be created into the State of the Valley of Mexico, with such boundaries and area as the Federal Congress shall assign to it.

Art. 45—The States and Territories of the Federation shall conserve their present boundaries and areas, provided no boundary question shall exist between them.

Art. 46—The States having pending boundary questions shall settle them as provided by this Constitution.

Art. 47—The State of Nayarit shall have the territorial area and boundaries at present comprising the territory of Tepic.

Art. 48—The islands in both oceans embraced within the national territory shall depend directly on the Federal Government, excepting those over which the States have up to the present time exercised jurisdiction.

TITLE III

CHAPTER I

OF THE DIVISION OF POWERS

Article 49—The supreme power of the Federation is divided for its exercise into legislative, executive and judicial.

Two or more of these powers shall never be united in one person or corporation, nor shall the executive power be vested in one individual except in the case of extraordinary powers granted to the executive, in accordance with the provisions of Article 29.

CHAPTER II

OF THE LEGISLATIVE POWER

Article 50—The legislative power of the United States of Mexico is vested in a general Congress which shall consist of a House of Representatives and a Senate.

SECTION I

OF THE ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF THE CONGRESS

Article 51—The House of Representatives shall consist of representatives of the Nation, all of whom shall be elected every two years by the citizens of Mexico.

Art. 52—One representative shall be chosen for each 60,000 inhabitants or for any fraction thereof exceeding 20,000, on the basis of the general census of the Federal District and of each State and Territory. Any State or Territory in which the population shall be less than that fixed by this Article shall, nevertheless, elect one representative.

Art. 53—There shall be elected an alternate for each Representative.

Art. 54—The election of Representatives shall be direct, in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law.

Art 55—Representatives shall have the following qualifications:

I—They shall be Mexican citizens by birth and in the enjoyment of their rights.

II—They shall be over twenty-five years of age on the day of election.

III—They shall be natives of the States or Territories respectively electing them, or domiciled and actually resident therein for six months immediately prior to the election. The domicile shall not be lost through absence in the discharge of any elective office.

IV—They shall not be in active service in the Federal army, not have any command in the Police corps or rural constabulary in the districts where the elections respectively take place, for at least ninety days immediately prior to the election.

V—They shall not hold the office of secretary nor assistant secretary of any Executive Department or of Justice of the Supreme Court, unless they shall have resigned therefrom ninety days immediately prior to the election.

No State Governor, Secretary of State of the several States, or State Judge shall be eligible in the Districts within their several jurisdictions, unless they shall have resigned from their respective offices ninety days immediately prior to the day of election.

VI—They shall not be ministers of any religious creed.

Art. 56—The Senate shall consist of two Senators from each State and two from the Federal District, chosen in direct election.

Each State Legislature shall certify to the election of the candidate who shall have obtained a majority of the total number of votes cast.

Art. 57—There shall be elected an alternate for each Senator.

Art. 58—Each Senator shall serve four years. The Senate shall be renewed by half every two years.

Art. 59—The qualifications necessary to be a Senator shall be the same as those necessary to be a Representative, excepting that of age, which shall be over thirty-five on the day of election.

Art. 60—Each House shall be the judge of the election of its members and shall decide all questions arising therefrom.

Its decisions shall be final.

Art. 61—Representatives and Senators are inviolable for opinions expressed by them in the discharge of their duties, and shall never be called to account for them.

Art. 62—Representatives and Senators shall be disqualified during the terms for which they have been elected from holding any Federal or State commission or office for which any emolument is received without previous permission of the respective House; in the event of their accepting such commission or office they shall forthwith lose their representative character for such time as they shall hold such appointive office. The same provision shall apply to alternate Representatives and Senators, when in active service. The violation of this provision shall be punished by forfeiture of the office of Representative or Senator.

Art. 63—The Houses shall not open their sessions nor exercise their functions without a quorum, in the Senate, of two-thirds, and in the House of Representatives of a majority of the total membership; but the members present of either House shall meet on the day appointed by law and compel the attendance of the absentees within the next thirty days, and they shall warn them that failure to comply with this provision shall be taken to be a refusal of office, and the corresponding alternates shall be summoned forthwith; the latter shall have a similar period within which to present themselves, and on their failure to do so the seats shall be declared vacant and new elections called.

Representatives or Senators who shall be absent during ten consecutive days without proper cause or without leave of the President of the respective House, notice of which shall be duly communicated to the House, shall be understood as waiving their right to attend until the next session, and their alternates shall be summoned without delay.

If there shall be no quorum to organize either of the Houses or to continue their labors, once organized, the alternates shall be ordered to present themselves as soon as possible for the purpose of taking office until the expiration of the thirty days hereinbefore mentioned.

Art. 64—No Representative or Senator who shall fail to attend any daily session without proper cause or without previous permission of the respective House, shall be entitled to the compensation corresponding to the day on which he shall have been absent.

Art. 65—The Congress shall meet on the first day of September of each year in regular session for the consideration of the following matters:

I—To audit the accounts of the previous year which shall be submitted to the House of Representatives not later than ten days after the opening of the session. The audit shall not be confined to determining whether the expenditures do or do not conform with the respective items in the Budget, but shall comprise an examination of the exactness of and authorization for payments made thereunder and of any liability arising from such payments.

No other secret items shall be permitted than those which the Budget may consider as such; these amounts shall be paid out by the secretaries of Executive Departments under written orders of the President.

II—To examine, discuss and approve the Budget for the next fiscal year and to lay such taxes as may be needed to meet the expenditures.

III—To study, discuss and vote on all bills presented and to discuss all other matters incumbent upon the Congress by virtue of this Constitution.

Art. 66—The regular session of the Congress shall last the period necessary to deal with all of the matters mentioned in the foregoing article, but it may not be extended beyond the thirty-first day of December of the same year. Should both Houses fail to agree as to adjournment prior to the above date, the matter shall be decided by the executive.

Art. 67—The Congress shall meet in extraordinary session whenever so summoned by the President, but in such event it shall consider only the matter or matters submitted to it by the President, who shall enumerate it or them in the respective call. The President shall have power to convene in extraordinary session only one of the Houses when the matter to be referred to it pertains to its exclusive jurisdiction.

Art. 68—Both Houses shall hold their meetings in the same place and shall not move to another without having first agreed upon the moving and the time and manner of accomplishing it, as well as upon the place of meeting, which shall be the same for both Houses. If both Houses agree to change their meeting place but disagree as to the time, manner and place the President shall settle the question by choosing one of the two proposals. Neither House may suspend its sessions for more than three days without the consent of the other.

Art. 69—The President of the Republic shall attend at the opening of the sessions of the Congress, whether regular or extraordinary, and shall submit a report in writing; this report shall in the former case, relate to the general state of the Union; and in the latter, it shall explain to the Congress or to the House addressed the reasons or causes which rendered the call necessary and the matters requiring immediate attention.

Art. 70—Every measure of the Congress shall be in the form of a law or decree. The laws or decrees shall be communicated to the Executive after having been signed by the Presidents of both Houses and by one of the secretaries of each. When promulgated, the enacting clause shall read as follows:

"The Congress of the United States of Mexico decrees (text of the law or decree)."

SECTION II

OF THE ORIGIN AND FORMATION OF THE LAWS.

Art. 71—The right to originate legislation pertains:

I—To the President of the Republic;

II—To the Representatives and Senators of the Congress;

III—To the State Legislatures.

Bills submitted by the President of the Republic, by State Legislatures or by delegations of the States shall be at once referred to committee. Those introduced by Representatives or Senators shall be subject to the rules of procedure.

Art. 72—All bills, action on which shall not pertain exclusively to one of the Houses, shall be discussed first by one and then by the other, according to the rules of procedure as to the form, time of presentation and other details relative to discussions and votes.

(a) After a bill has been approved in the House where it originated it shall be sent to the other House for consideration. If passed by the latter it shall be transmitted to the President who, if he has no objection thereto, shall immediately promulgate it.

(b) All bills not returned by the Executive within ten working days with his observations to the House in which they originated, shall be considered approved unless during the said ten days the Congress shall have adjourned or suspended its sessions, in which event they shall be returned on the first working day after the Congress shall have reconvened.

(c) Bills rejected in whole or in part by the Executive shall be returned with his observations to the House where they originated. They shall be discussed anew by this House and if confirmed by a two-thirds majority vote of the total membership shall be sent to the other House for reconsideration. If approved by it, also by the same majority vote, the bill shall become law and shall be returned to the Executive for promulgation.

The voting in both Houses shall be by yeas and nays.

(d) Bills totally rejected by the House not originating them shall be returned with the proper observations to the House of origin. If examined anew and approved by a majority of the members present, they shall be returned to the House rejecting them, which shall once again take them under consideration, and if approved by it, likewise by the same majority vote they shall be sent to the Executive for the purposes of Clause A; but if the said House fail to approve them, they shall not be reintroduced in the same session.

(e) Bills rejected in part or modified or amended by the House of revision shall be discussed anew in the House of origin, but the discussion shall be confined to tne portion rejected or to the amendments or additions, without the approved articles being altered in any respect. If the additions or amendments made by the House of revision be approved by a majority vote of the members present in the House of origin, the bill shall be transmitted to the Executive for the purposes of Clause A; but if the amendments or additions by the House of revision be rejected by a majority vote of the House of origin they shall be returned to the former House in order that the reasons set forth by the latter may be taken into consideration. If in this second revision the said additions or amendments be rejected by a majority vote of the members present the portion of the bill which has been approved by both Houses shall be sent to the Executive for the purposes of Clause A. If the House of revision insist by a majority vote of the members present upon the additions or amendments, no action shall be taken on the whole bill until the next session, unless both Houses agree by a majority vote of the members present to the promulgation of the law without the articles objected to, which shall be left till the next session, when they shall be then discussed and voted upon.

(f) The same formalities as are required for the enactment of laws shall be observed for their interpretation, amendment or repeal.

(g) No bill rejected in the House of origin before passing to the other House shall be reintroduced during the session of that year.

(h) Legislative measures may be originated in either House, excepting bills dealing with loans, taxes or imposts, or with the raising of troops which must have their origin in the House of Representatives.

(i) Whenever a bill shall be presented to one House it shall be first discussed there unless one month shall have elapsed since it was referred to committee and not reported, in which event an identical bill may be presented and discussed in the other House.

(j) The President shall not make any observations touching the decisions of the Congress or of either House when acting as an electoral body or as a grand jury, nor when the House of Representatives shall declare that there are grounds to impeach any high federal authority for official offenses.

Nor shall he make any observations touching the order for a call issued by the Permanent Committee as provided in Article 84.

SECTION III

OF THE POWERS OF CONGRESS.

Article 73.—The Congress shall have power:

I—To admit new States or Territories into the Federal Union.

II—To grant statehood to Territories having a population of 80,000 inhabitants and the elements necessary to provide for their political existence.

III—To form new States within the boundaries of existing ones provided the following requisites are complied with:

1—That the section or sections aspiring to statehood have a population of 120,000 inhabitants at least;

2—That proof be given to the Congress that it has sufficient means to provide for its political existence;

3—That the legislatures of the States affected be heard as to the advisability or inadvisability of granting such statehood, which opinion shall be given within six months after the date of the commuunication addressed to them on the subject;

4—That the opinion of the Executive of the Federal Government be also heard on the subject; said opinion to be given within seven days after the date on which it was requested.

5—That the creation of the new State be voted upon favorably by two-thirds of the Representatives and Senators present in their respective Houses.

6—That the resolution of the Congress be ratified by a majority of the State Legislatuures, upon examination of the copy of the record of the case, provided that the Legislatures of the States to which the section belongs shall have given their consent.

7—If the Legislatures of the States to which the Section belongs have not given their consent, the ratification referred to in the foregoing Clause shall be made by two-thirds of the Legislatures of the other States.

IV—To settle finally the limits of the States, terminating the differences which may arise between them relative to the demarcation of their respective territories, except when the differences be of a litigious nature.

V—To change the residence of the supreme powers of the Federation.

VI—To legislate in all matters relating to the Federal District and the Territories, as hereinafter provided:

1—The Federal District and the Territories shall be divided into municipalities, each of which shall have the area and population sufficient for its own support and for its contribution toward the common expenses.

2—Each municipality shall be governed by a town council elected by direct vote of the people.

3—The Federal District and each of the Territories shall be administered by Governors under the direct orders of the President of the Republic. The Governor of the Federal District shall despatch with the President, and the Governor of each Territory shall despatch with the President through the duly constituted channels. The Governor of the Federal District and the Governor of each territory shall be appointed by the President and may be removed by him at will.

4—The Superior Judges and those of First Instance of the Federal District and those of the Territories shall be named by the Congress, acting in each case as an electoral college. In the temporary or permanent absences of the said Superior Judges these shall be replaced by appointment of the Congress, and in recess by temporary appointments of the Permanent Committee. The organic law shall determine the manner of filling temporary vacancies in the case of judges, and shall designate the authority before whom they shall be called to account for any dereliction, excepting the provisions of this Constitution with regard to the responsibility of officials. From and after the year 1923 the Superior Judges and those of First Instance to which this clause refers may only be removed from office for bad conduct and after impeachment, unless they shall have been promoted to the next higher grade. From and after the said date the compensation enjoyed by said officials shall not be diminished during their term of office.

5—The office of the Public Attorney (Ministerio Publico) of the Federal District and of the Territories, shall be in charge of an Attorney General, who shall reside in the City of Mexico and of such Public Attorney or Attorneys as the law may determine; the said Attorney General shall be under the direct orders of the President of the Republic, who shall appoint and may remove him at will.

VII—To lay the taxes necessary to meet the expenditures of the Budget.

VIII—To establish the conditions upon which the Executive may make loans on the credit of the nation; to approve the said loans and to recognize and order the payment of the public debt.

IX—To enact tariff laws on foreign commerce and to prevent restrictions from being imposed on interstate commerce.

X—To legislate for the entire Republic in all matters relating to mining, commerce, and credit institutions, and to establish the sole bank of issue as provided in Article 28 of this Constitution.

XI—To create and abolish Federal offices and to fix, increase or decrease the compensations assigned thereto.

XII—To declare war upon examination of the facts submitted by the Executive.

XIII—To regulate the manner in which letters of marque may be issued; to enact laws according to which prizes on land and sea shall be adjudged valid or invalid, and to frame the admiralty law for times of peace and war.

XIV—To raise and maintain the army and navy of the Union and to regulate their organization and service.

XV—To make rules for the organization and discipline of the National Guard, reserving for the citizens who compose it the right of appointing their respective commanders and officers, and to the States the power of instructing it in conformity with the discipline prescribed by the said regulations.

XVI—To enact laws on citizenship, naturalization, colonization, emigration, immigration and public health of the Republic.

1—The Public Health service shall depend directly upon the President of the Republic, without the intervention of any Executive Department, and its general provisions shall be binding throughout the Republic.

2—In the event of epidemics of a grave or dangerous nature, of the invasion of diseases from abroad, the Public Health Service shall be called upon to put into force without delay the necessary preventive measures, subect to their subsequent sanction by the President of the Republic.

3—The sanitary authorities shall have executive faculties and their determinations shall be obeyed by the administrative authorties of the country.

4—All measures which the Public Health Service shall have put into effect in its campaign against alcoholism and the sale of substances injurious to man and to the race shall be subsequently revised by the Congress in such cases as fall within the jurisdiction of the latter.

XVII—To enact laws on general means of communication, postroads and post offices and to enact laws as to the use and development of the waters subject to the Federal jurisdiction.

XVIII—To establish mints, regulate the value and kinds of the national currency, fix the value of foreign moneys and adopt a general system of weights and measures.

XIX—To make rules for the occupation and sale of public lands and the prices therefor.

XX—To enact laws as to the organization of the diplomatic and consular services.

XXI—To define the crimes and offenses against the Nation and to fix the penalties therefor.

XXII—To grant amnesty for offenses subject to the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts.

XXIII—To make rules for its internal government and to enact the necessary provisions to compel the attendance of absent Representatives and Senators and to punish the acts of commission or omission of those present.

XXIV—To issue the organic law of the Auditor General's office.

XXV—To sit as an electoral college and to name the Justices of the Supreme Court, and the Superior and Inferior Judges of the Federal District and Territories.

XXVI—To accept the resignations of the Justices of the Supreme Court and of the Superior and Inferior Judges of the Federal District and

(Continued on page 9)

· The ·
Mexican Review
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THE NEW CONSTITUTION

The Review gives herewith the complete text of the new Constitution of Mexico, which was adopted at Queretaro, on January 31st, after a session of over two months spent in its discussion by the Constituent Congress.

The translation has been carefully made by a competent linguist who has in the past performed similar tasks with fidelity and success, and The Review believes that as given here it is a correct reflex in the English language of the meaning of the authors of this notable document.

It had been hoped to present the old Constitution side by side with the new, in order that readers might the more readily compare the two and determine for themselves the changes that have been made. Lack of space, however, prevents this, but in future issues The Review will from time to time give the more notable differences between the old and the new Constitutions.

Notable features are the addition of new sections such as the agrarian law, the labor law, etc., which had no place in the former organic code. These and many other features as well will well repay study by all interested in Mexico, as also those concerned in the uplift of the human race.

The new Constitution of Mexico is one of the most progressive and in many respects radical codes that the world has yet seen.

The work of translation was undertaken by Mr. H. N. Branch, who is a graduate of the George Washington University Law School and has had broad experience with Mexican legal terminology; he is thus particularly well-fitted to undertake work involving an analytical study of the common law and the civil law. The character of the work is sufficient testimony to the ability of the translator in this direction.

PRESIDENT WILSON AND MEXICO

In the February issue of *Everybody's Magazine* is a lengthy interview with President Wilson, in which occurs the following pungent and interesting statement:

"With respect to Mexico *no change in policy may be expected.* In speaking of this matter the whole manner of the President betrayed a fixed and indomitable resolution:

"No peace will be imposed upon Mexico that will suppress permanently a people's struggle to freedom and self-government," said the President. "No aid will be given to the restoration of a dictatorship. The safety of the border must be secured, and no activity will be spared to protect American lives and property, but this course is in no wise incompatible with the firm conviction that Mexico can never become a peaceful, law-abiding neighbor until she has been permitted to achieve a permanent and basic settlement of her troubles *without outside interference.* Lack of appreciation of the patience and forbearance of the United States may irritate and anger, but in no wise does it change the fundamental issues."

It is worth while at this juncture to quote the memorable utterance of the President made at Indianapolis in 1914, and which was received with such warm approval in Mexico. He said:

"There is one thing I have a great enthusiasm about—I might almost say a reckless enthusiasm—and that is human liberty. I hold it as a fundamental principle that every people has the right to determine its own form of government; and until this recent revolution in Mexico, until the end of the Diaz reign, 80 per cent of the people of Mexico never had a "look in" in determining who should be their governor or what their government should be. Now I am for the 80 per cent. It is none of my business and it is none of your business how long they take in determining it. The country is theirs. The Government is theirs. The liberty if they can get it—and God speed them in getting it—is theirs. And so far as my influence goes, while I am President nobody shall interfere with them. That is what I mean by a great emotion, the great emotion of sympathy. Do you suppose that the American people are ever going to count a small amount of material benefit and advantage to people doing business in Mexico against the liberties and the permanent happiness of the Mexican people? Have not European nations taken as long as they wanted and spilt as much blood as they pleased in settling their affairs, and shall we deny that to Mexico because she is weak? No, I say!"

NOTE AND COMMENT

First Chief Carranza has issued a decree under the provisions of the new Constitution, calling for elections for President, Senators and Congressional Deputies, to be held on the second Sunday in March (the 11th). The officials thus elected will be installed in office on the 1st of May. A preliminary session of Congress will be held on April 2d, continuing for twelve days thereafter, for the purpose of examining the credentials of the members and subsequently computing the votes cast for President and declaring the result.

The cordial relations that exist between labor and capital in some directions at least in Mexico, are shown by the recent holding of a Congress of Railway Employes in Mexico City for the purpose of discussing and arranging many matters of importance, including wages, hours of labor, etc. This Congress was called at the direct request of the managers of the lines, and the proceedings are said to have been harmonious and satisfactory to both sides. It is probably the first instance of the kind in the world's history, and is an apt illustration of the changed conditions for the better that have attended the triumph of the Revolution.

The rapid restoration of normal conditions in Mexico is clearly and indisputably evidenced by the statistics of commerce between that country and the United States. For the eleven months ending November, 1916, the total trade between the two countries was over $143,000,000 or for the twelve months approximately $156,000,000, there being a constant and steady increase from month to month. The revival of mining is shown in the most marked manner by the fact that in the eleven months noted the shipments of copper from Mexico to the United States totaled nearly twenty million dollars, while for the same period of the previous year they amounted to only nine millions. Shipments of sisal fibre increased over four and a half million dollars and shipments of oil were nearly twenty-five per cent greater than during the previous year. Altogether the detailed figures afford much food for thought—notably as to the accuracy of the widespread allegations that conditions of turmoil and anarchy are the rule and not the exception in the southern Republic.

It having been reported in Mexico and in Queretaro, on the arrival of Secretary Cabrera, of the Treasury Department, from his long stay in the United States as a member of the Mexican-American Commission, that he had engaged in negotiations regarding a loan to the Government of the Republic, a most positive official denial has been issued. It is declared that several prominent American banking houses made tenders of loans, but that all were declined on the ground that the time has not yet arrived for such negotiations. As The Review has already announced, no bond issue to secure a loan can be made until such issue is authorized by the chief legislative body of the Republic, and there has been no such body in existence since the commencement of the usurpation of Huerta. The Congress that is to be chosen on the 11th of March will have that power and can exercise it if it shall be deemed proper.

EDUCATIONAL QUESTION EXPLAINED

In answer to a question asked by a "Universal" reporter, caused by a recently published statement as to the activities of a group of educators in the United States concerning educational matters in Mexico, Secretary Andres Osuna, of the Department of Education and Fine Arts, said that it was a mistake to suppose that he belonged to any organization having interventionist views on national education. While it is true that he has given some data relative to instruction in the schools to institutes and educational groups in the United States, he had done so in the character of Director-General of Education and at the solicitation of those interested. He added that he was in receipt daily of letters from institutions interested in acquiring information regarding the schools of Mexico, but inspired solely by student interest.

Because of publishing the new Constitution the Spanish page is omitted in this issue. However, a specially prepared sheet of Spanish will be sent to those who have become members of the Spanish Forum by subscription to the magazine.

POLITICAL CONSTITUTION

(Continued from page 7)

Territories, and to name substitutes in their absence and to appoint their successors.

XXVII To establish professional schools of scientific research and fine arts, vocational, agricultural and trade schools, museums, libraries, observatories and other institutes of higher learning, until such time as these establishments can be supported by private funds. These powers shall not pertain exclusively to the Federal Government.

All degrees conferred by any of the above institutions shall be valid throughout the Republic.

XXVIII—To sit as an electoral college and to choose the person to assume the office of President of the Republic, either as a substitute President or as a President ad interim in the terms established by Articles 84 and 85 of this Constitution.

XXIX—To accept the resignation of the President of the Republic.

XXX—To audit the accounts which shall be submitted annually by the Executive: this audit shall comprise not only the checking of the items disbursed under the Budget but the exactness of and authorization for the expenditures in each case.

XXXI—To make all laws necessary for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the several branches of the Government.

Art. 74—The House of Representatives shall have the following exclusive powers:

I—To sit as an electoral college to exercise the powers conferred by law as to the election of the President.

II—To watch by means of a special committee appointed from among its own members over the faithful performance by the Auditor General of the nation in the discharge of his duties.

III—To appoint all the higher officers and other employees of the Auditor General's office.

IV—To approve the annual Budget, after a discussion as to what taxes must in its judgment be laid to meet the necessary expenditures.

V To take cognizance of all charges brought against public officials, as herein provided, for official offenses, and should the circumstances so warrant to impeach them before the Senate: and further to act as a grand jury to decide whether there is or is not good ground for proceeding against any official enjoying constitutional privileges, whenever accused of offenses of the common order.

VI—To exercise such other powers as may be expressly vested in it by this Constitution.

Art. 75—The House of Representatives, in passing the budget, shall assign a definite compensation to every office created by law, and if for any reason such compensation shall not be assigned, the amount fixed in the preceding Budget or in the law creating the office shall be presumed to be assigned.

Art. 76—The Senate shall have the following exclusive powers:

I—To approve the treaties and diplomatic conventions concluded by the Executive with foreign powers.

II—To ratify the nominations made by the President of diplomatic ministers or agents, consuls general, higher officials of the treasury, colonels and other superior officers of the army and navy as by law provided.

III—To authorize the Executive to allow the national troops to go beyond the limits of the Republic or to permit foreign troops to pass through the national territory and to consent to the presence of foreign fleets for more than one month in Mexican waters.

IV—To give its consent to the use, by the President, of the national guard beyond the limits of the respective States or Territories and to fix the amount of the force to be used.

V—To declare when the constitutional powers of any State have disappeared, that the occasion has arisen to give to the said State a provisional Governor, who shall call for elections to be held according to the constitution and laws of the said State. The appointment of such a Governor shall be made by the Senate with the approval of two-thirds of its members present or during recess by the Permanent Committee by the same two-thirds majority from among three names proposed by the President. The official thus selected shall not be chosen constitutional governor in the elections to be held under the call which he shall issue. This provision shall govern whenever the State Constitutions do not provide for the contingency.

VI—To sit as a Grand Jury to take cognizance of such official offenses of functionaries as are expressly prescribed by this Constitution.

VII—To exercise such other powers as may be expressly vested in it by this Constitution.

VIII—To adjust all political questions arising between the powers of a State whenever one of them shall appeal to the Senate or whenever by virtue of such differences a clash of arms has arisen to interrupt the constitutional order. In this event the Senate shall decide in accordance with the Federal Constitution and the Constitution of the State involved.

The exercise of this power and of the foregoing shall be regulated by law.

Art. 77—Each House may, without the intervention of the other:

I—Pass resolutions for matters exclusively relating to its own interior government.

II—Communicate with the other House, and with the Executive through the intermediary of committees appointed from among its members.

III—Appoint the employees in the office of the secretary and to make all rules and regulations for the said office.

IV—Issue a call for extraordinary elections to fill any vacancies which may have occurred in its membership.

SECTION IV

OF THE PERMANENT COMMITTEE.

Article 78—During the recesses of the Congress there shall be a Permanent Committee consisting of 29 members, 15 of whom shall be Representatives and 14 Senators, appointed by the respective Houses on the eve of the day of adjournment.

Art. 79—In addition to the powers expressly vested in it by this Constitution, the Permanent Committee shall have the following powers:

I—To give its consent to the use of the national guard as provided in Article 76, Clause IV.

II—To administer the oath of office should the occasion arise, to the President, to the Members of the Supreme Court, to the Superior Judges of the Federal District and Territories, on such occasions as the latter officials may happen to be in the City of Mexico.

III—To report on all pending matters, so that they may be considered in the ensuing session.

IV—To call extraordinary sessions in the case of official offenses or offenses of the common order committed by secretaries of Executive Departments or Justices of the Supreme Court, and official offenses committed by State Governors provided the case shall have been already instituted by the Committee of the Grand Jury, in which event no other business of the Congress shall be considered, nor shall the sessions be prolonged beyond the time necessary for a decision.

CHAPTER III

OF THE EXECUTIVE POWER.

Article 80—The exercise of the Supreme Executive power of the nation is vested in a single individual who shall be called "President of the United States of Mexico."

Art. 81—The election of the President shall be direct in accordance with the provisions of the electoral law.

Art. 82—The President of the Republic shall have the following qualifications:

I—He shall be a Mexican citizen by birth, in the full enjoyment of his rights and he must be the son of Mexican parents by birth.

II—He shall be over thirty-five years of age at the time of election.

III—He shall have resided in the country during the entire year prior to the election.

IV—He shall not belong to any ecclesiastical order nor be a minister of any religious creed.

V—In the event of belonging to the army he shall have retired from active service 90 days immediately prior to the election.

VI He shall not be a secretary or assistant secretary of any Executive Department unless he shall have resigned from office 90 days prior to the election.

VII—He shall not have taken part, directly or indirectly, in any uprising, riot or military coup.

Art 83—The President shall enter upon the duties of his office on the first day of December, shall serve four years and shall never be reelected.

The citizen who shall replace the constitutional President in the event of his permanent disability shall not be elected President for the ensuing term.

Nor shall the person designated as Acting President during the temporary disabilities of the constitutional President be re-elected President for the ensuing term.

Art. 84—In the event of the permanent disability of the President of the Republic, if this shall occur within the first two years of the respective term, the Congress, if in session, shall forthwith act as an electoral college and with the attendance of at least two-thirds of its total membership shall choose a President by secret ballot and by a majority vote; and the same Congress shall issue the call for Presidential elections and shall endeavor to have the date set for this event as far as possible coincide with the date of the next election of Representatives and Senators to Congress.

Should the disability of the President occur while Congress is in recess, the Permanent Committee shall forthwith designate a President ad interim who shall call Congress together in extraordinary session, in order that it may in turn issue the call for Presidential elections in the manner provided in the foregoing article.

Should the disability of the President occur in the last two years of the respective term, the Congress, if in session, shall choose the substitute to conclude the period of the Presidential term; if Congress shall not be in session the Permanent Committee shall choose a President ad interim and shall summon Congress in extraordinary session in order that it may act as an electoral college and proceed to the election of the substitute President.

The President ad interim may be chosen by Congress as substitute President.

The citizen designated as President ad interim for the purpose of calling elections, in the event of the disability of the President within the two first years of the respective term, shall not be chosen in the elections held to fill such vacancy and for which he was designated.

Art. 85—If the President-Elect shall fail to present himself at the beginning of any constitutional term, or the election not have been held and the result made known by the first of December, the outgoing President shall nevertheless vacate office and the President ad interim chosen by the Congress, or in its recess by the Permanent Committee, shall forthwith assume the executive power. All action taken hereunder shall be governed by the provisions of the foregoing article.

In case of a temporary disability of the President, the Congress, or the Permanent Committee if the Congress shall not be in session, shall designate an Acting President during such disability. If a temporary disability shall become permanent the action prescribed in the preceding article shall be taken.

In the event of a leave of absence granted to the President of the Republic the person acting in his stead shall not be disqualified from being elected in the ensuing period, provided he shall not have been in office during the holding of elections.

Art. 86—The President may not resign office except for grave cause, upon which the Congress shall pass, to which body the resignation shall be tendered.

Art. 87—The President before entering upon the discharge of the duties of his office, shall make the following affirmation before the Congress, or in its recess before the Permanent Committee:

"I do solemnly affirm that I will defend and enforce the Constitution of the United States of Mexico and the laws arising thereunder and that I will faithfully and conscientiously perform the duties of President of the United States of Mexico, to which I have been chosen by the people, having ever in mind the welfare and prosperity of the Nation; if I shall fail to do so, may the Nation call me to account."

Art. 88—The President may not absent himself from the national territory without the permission of the Congress.

Art. 89—The President shall have the following powers and duties:

I—To promulgate and execute the laws enacted by the Congress, providing in the administrative sphere for their faithful observance.

II—To appoint and remove at will the Secretaries of Executive Departments, the Attorney General of the Republic, the Governor of the Federal District, the Governors of Territories, the Attorney General of the Federal District and Territories; and to appoint and remove at will all other Federal employees whose appointment or removal is not otherwise provided for by law or in this Constitution.

III—To appoint by and with the approval and consent of the Senate all ministers, diplomatic agents and consuls general.

IV—To appoint by and with the approval of the Senate the colonels and other superior officers of the army and navy and the superior officials of the Treasury.

V—To appoint all other officers of the army and navy as by law provided.

VI—To dispose of the permanent land and sea forces for the domestic safety and defense of the Union.

VII—To dispose of the national guard for the same purposes, as provided by Article 76, Clause IV.

VIII—To declare war in the name of the United States of Mexico, after the passage of the corresponding resolution by the Congress.

IX—To grant letters of marque, upon the terms and conditions fixed by the Congress.

X—To conduct diplomatic negotiations and to enter into treaties with foreign powers, submitting them for ratification to the Congress.

XI—To call Congress or either of the Houses in extraordinary session, whenever in his judgment it may be advisable.

XII—To afford the judiciary all the assistance necessary for the expeditious exercise of its functions.

XIII—To open all kinds of ports, establish maritime and frontier customs houses and designate their location.

XIV—To grant, according to law, pardons to criminals sentenced for offenses within the jurisdiction of the Federal tribunals, and to all persons sentenced for offenses of the common order in the Federal District and Territories.

XV—To grant exclusive privileges for a limited time, and according to the respective laws, to discoverers, inventors or improvers in any branch of industry.

XVI—Whenever the Senate shall not be in session the President may temporarily make the appointments enumerated in Clauses III and IV hereof, but these appointments shall be submitted to the Senate so soon as it reconvenes.

XVII—To exercise such other rights and duties as are expressly conferred upon him by this Constitution.

Art. 90—For the transaction of administrative matters of the Federal Government there shall be the number of Secretaries of Executive Departments which the Congress may by law establish, which law shall likewise assign among the several Departments the several matters with which each shall be charged.

Art. 91—No person shall be appointed Secretary of an Executive Department who is not a Mexican citizen by birth and in the enjoyment of his rights and who has not attained the age of thirty years.

Art. 92—All rules, regulations, decrees and orders of the President shall be signed by the Secretary of the Executive Department to which the matter pertains. They shall not be binding without this requisite. All rules, regulations and orders of the President touching the government of the Federal District and of the Administrative Departments shall be transmitted directly by the President to the Governor of the District and to the Chief of the respective Department.

Art. 93—The Secretaries of Executive Departments shall on the opening of each regular session report to the Congress as to the state of their respective Departments. Either House may summon a Secretary of an Executive Department to inform it, whenever a bill or other matter pertaining to his department is under discussion.

CHAPTER IV.

OF THE JUDICIAL POWER.

Art. 94—The judicial power of the Federation is vested in a Supreme Court and in Circuit and District Courts, whose number and powers shall be fixed by law. The Supreme Court of Justice shall consist of eleven members; its sittings shall be in banc and open to the public, except in the cases where public interest or morality shall otherwise require. It shall meet at such times and under such conditions as by law prescribed. No sittings of the Court shall be held without the attendance of at least two-thirds of its total membership, and all decisions rendered shall be by a majority vote.

The Justices of the Supreme Court chosen to this office in the forthcoming elections shall serve two years; those elected at the conclusion of this first term shall serve four years, and from and after the year 1923 the Justices of the Supreme Court, the Circuit and District judges may only be removed for malfeasance and after impeachment proceedings, unless the Circuit and District Judges be promoted to the next higher grade.

The same provision shall govern insofar as it be applicable to the terms of two and four years, respectively, to which this article refers.

Art. 95—The Justices of the Supreme Court shall have the following qualifications:

I—They shall be Mexican citizens by birth, in the full enjoyment of their civil and political rights.

II—They shall be over thirty-five years of age at the time of election.

III—They shall be graduates in law, of some institution or corporation authorized by law to confer such degrees.

IV—They shall be of good repute and not have been convicted of any offense punishable with more than one year's imprisonment; but conviction of larceny, deceit, forgery, embezzlement or any other offense seriously impairing their good name in the public mind shall disqualify them for office whatever may have been the penalty imposed.

V—They shall have resided in the country for the last five years, except in the case of absence due to public service abroad for a period not exceeding six months.

Art. 96—The members of the Supreme Court of Justice shall be chosen by the Congress, acting as an electoral college; the presence of at least two-thirds of the total number of Representatives and Senators shall be necessary for such action. The election shall be by secret ballot and by a majority vote, and shall be held as among the candidates previously proposed, one being nominated by each State legislature as provided in the respective State laws.

Should no candidate receive a majority on the first ballot, the balloting shall be repeated between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

Art. 97—All Circuit and District Judges shall be appointed by the Supreme Court of Justice; they shall have such qualifications as by law required, shall serve four years and shall not be removed except by impeachment proceedings or for incapacity to discharge their duties, in accordance with the law.

The Supreme Court of Justice may remove the District Judges from one District to another, or it may fix their seats in another locality as it may deem most advantageous to the public business. A similar procedure shall be observed in the case of Circuit Judges.

The Supreme Court of Justice may likewise appoint auxiliary Circuit and District Judges to assist in the labors of such Courts as have an excessive amount of business in order that the administration of justice may be speedy; it shall also name one or more of its members or some District or Circuit Judge or shall designate one or more special commissioners whenever it shall deem it advisable or on the request of the President or of either House or of any State Governor, solely for the purpose of inquiring into the behavior of any Judge or Federal Justice or into any fact or facts which amount to a violation of any individual rights or to the subversion of the popular will or any other offense punishable by Federal Statute.

The Circuit and District Courts shall be assigned among the several Justices of the Supreme Court who shall visit them periodically, shall observe the conduct of their Judges, listen to any complaint presented against them and perform all such other acts as the law may require. The Supreme Court shall appoint and remove at will its Clerk of the Court and other employees on the roster established by law. The Circuit and District Judges shall likewise appoint and remove at will their respective clerks and employees.

The Supreme Court shall choose each year one of its members to act as Chief Justice, with the right of re-election.

Each Justice of the Supreme Court on assuming office shall make an affirmation before Congress, or if this is in recess, before the Permanent Committee, as follows:

The Presiding Officer shall say: "Do you promise to perform faithfully and conscienciously the duties of Justice of the Supreme Court with which you have been charged, and to defend and enforce the Constitution of the United States of Mexico and the laws arising thereunder, having ever in mind the welfare and prosperity of the Nation?" To which the Justice shall reply, "I do." On which the Presiding Officer shall answer: "If you fail to do so, may the Nation call you to account."

The Circuit and District Judges shall make the affirmation of office before the Supreme Court or before such other authority as the law may determine.

Art. 98—No temporary disability of a Justice of the Supreme Court not exceeding one month shall be filled, provided there be otherwise a quorum. In the absence of a quorum the Congress, or in its recess the Permanent Committee, shall name a substitute selected from among the candidates submitted by the States for the election of the Justice in question and not chosen, to serve during such disability. If the disability do not exceed two months, the Congress, or during its recess the Permanent Committee shall choose at will a temporary Justice.

In the event of the death, resignation or disqualification of any Justice of the Supreme Court a new election shall be held by the Congress to fill this vacancy as provided in Article 96.

If the Congress shall not be in session, the Permanent Committee shall make a temporary appointment until such time as the Congress shall convene and proceed to the corresponding election.

Art. 99—The resignation of a Justice of the Supreme Court shall be only accepted for grave cause to be passed upon by the Congress, to whom the resignation shall be tendered. If the Congress is in recess the power to act in this matter shall pertain to the Permanent Committee.

Art. 100—The Supreme Court shall grant all leaves of absence of its members when they do not exceed one month; such as do exceed this period shall be granted by the House of Representatives or during its recess by the Permanent Committee.

Art. 101—No Justice of the Supreme Court, Circuit or District Judge, nor Clerk of any of these Courts shall under any circumstances accept any State, Federal or private commission or office, excepting honorary titles from scientific, literary or charitable associations. The violation of this provision shall work a forfeiture of office.

Art. 102—The office of the Public Attorney shall be organized in accordance with the law, and the Public Attorneys shall be appointed and removed at will by the Executive. They shall be under the direction of an Attorney General who shall possess the same qualifications as are required for the office of Justice of the Supreme Court.

The Public Attorneys shall be charged with the judicial prosecution of all Federal offenses; they shall accordingly sue out all orders of arrest, assemble and offer all evidence as to the responsibility of the accused, see that the trials are conducted in due order so that the administration of justice may be speedy, pray the imposition of sentence, and in general take part in all matters required by law.

The Attorney General of the Republic shall personally intervene in matters to which the Federal Government is a party, in cases affecting ministers, diplomatic agents and consuls general, and in all controversies between two or more States of the Union, between the Federal Government and a State or between the several powers of a State. The Attorney General may either personally or through one of the Public Attorneys take part in all other cases in which the Public Attorneys are called upon to act.

The Attorney General shall be the legal advisor of the Government, and both he and the Public Attorneys under his orders shall faithfully obey the law and shall be liable for all breaches or for any violations in which they may incur in the discharge of their duties.

Art. 103—The Federal Tribunals shall take cognizance of:

I—All controversies arising out of laws or acts of the authorities when the latter infringe any individual rights.

II—All controversies arising out of laws or acts of the Federal authorities which limit or encroach upon the sovereignty of the States.

III—All controversies arising out of laws or acts of the State authorities which invade the sphere of the Federal authorities.

Art. 104—The Federal Tribunals shall have jurisdiction over:

I—All controversies of a civil or criminal nature arising out of the application and enforcement of the Federal laws, or out of treaties concluded with foreign powers. Whenever such controversies affect only private rights, the regular local courts of the States, the Federal District and Territories shall, at the election of the plaintiff, assume jurisdiction. Appeal may be had from all judgments of first instance to the next higher tribunal of the same Court in which the case was first heard. Appeal may be taken from sentences of second instance to the Supreme Court of Justice, which appeal shall be prepared, submitted and prosecuted, in accordance with the procedure provided by law.

II—All cases pertaining to admiralty law.

III—All cases to which the Federal Government may be a party.

IV—All cases arising between two or more States, or between any State and the Federal Government, as well those arising between the courts of the Federal District and those of the Federal Government or of a State.

V—All cases arising between a State and one or more citizens of another State.

VI—All cases concerning diplomatic agents and consular officers.

Art. 105—The Supreme Court of Justice shall have exclusive jurisdiction in all controversies arising between two or more States, between the powers of government of any State as to the constitutionality of their acts, or between one or more States and the Federal Government, and in all cases to which the Federal Government may be a party.

Art. 106—The Supreme Court of Justice shall likewise have exclusive jurisdiction to determine all questions of jurisdiction between the Federal Tribunals, between these and those of the States, or between those of one State and those of another.

Art. 107—All controversies mentioned in Article 103 shall be prosecuted by the injured party in accordance with the judicial forms and procedure which the law shall establish, subject to the following conditions:

I—The judgment shall always be so drawn as to affect exclusively private individuals, and shall confine itself to affording them protection in the special case to which the complaint refers; but it shall make no general statement as to the law or the act that may have formed the basis for the complaint.

II—In civil or penal suits, excepting those mentioned in Clause IX hereof, the writ of "amparo"[*] shall issue only against final judgments when no other ordinary recourse is available by which these judgments may be modified or amended, if the violation of the law shall have occurred in the judgment, or if, although committed during the course of the trial, objection was duly noted and protest entered against the denial of reparation, and provided further that if committed in first instance it shall have been invoked in second instance as a violation of the law.

When the writ of "amparo" is sought against mesne judgments, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing clause, these rules shall be observed, as far as applicable.

Notwithstanding the foregoing provision, the Supreme Court may in penal cases waive any defects in the petition when there has been a manifest violation of the law which has left the petitioner without recourse, or when he has been tried by a law not strictly applicable to the case, provided failure to take advantage of this violation has been merely an oversight.

III—In civil or penal suits the writ of "amparo" shall issue only if substantial portions of the rules of procedure have been violated, and provided further that the said violation shall deprive the petitioner of means of defense.

IV—In addition to the case mentioned in the foregoing paragraph, the writ of "amparo" shall issue only on a final judgment in a civil suit,—provided the requirements set forth in Clause II hereof have been complied with,—when the said judgment shall be contrary to the letter of the law applicable to the case or contrary to its legal interpretation, when it includes persons, actions, defenses, or things which have not been the object of the suit, or finally when all these have not been included either through omission or express refusal.

V—In penal suits, the authorities responsible for the violation shall stay the execution of final judgment against which the writ of "amparo" has been sought; for this purpose the petitioner shall, within the period set by law, give notice, under oath, to the said authorities of the interposition of this recourse, accompanying it with two copies of the petition, one of which shall be delivered to the opposing party and the other filed.

VI—The execution of a final judgment in civil suits shall only be stayed when the petitioner shall give bond to cover damages occasioned thereby, unless the other party shall give a counter bond (1) to guarantee that the normal conditions and relations previously existing be restored, and (2) to pay the corresponding damages, in the event of the granting of the "amparo." In such event the interposition of the recourse of "amparo" shall be communicated as provided in the foregoing clause.

VII—If a writ of "amparo" be sought against a final judgment, a certified copy of such portions of the record as the petitioner may desire shall be requested from the authority responsible for the violation; to this there shall be added such portions as the other party may desire and a clear and succinct statement by the said authority of the justification of the act protested; note shall be made of this on the record.

VIII—When a writ of "amparo" is sought against a final judgment, the petition shall be brought before the Supreme Court; this petition, together with a copy required by Clause VII, shall be either presented to the Supreme Court or sent through the authority responsible for the violation or through the District Court of the corresponding State. The Supreme Court shall render judgment without any other formality or procedure than the petition, the document presented by the other party and that of the Attorney General or the Public Attorney he may name in his stead, and shall comprise no other legal question than that contained in the complaint.

IX—When the acts of an authority other than the judicial are involved or the acts of the judiciary exercised outside of the suit or after the termination thereof, or acts committed during the suit whose execution is of impossible reparation, or which affect persons not parties to the suit, the writ of "amparo" shall be sought before the District Court within whose jurisdiction is located the place where the act protested was committed or attempted; the procedure in this case shall be confined to the report of the authority and to a hearing, the call for which shall be issued in the same order of the court as that calling for the report. This hearing shall be held at as early a date as possible, the testimony of both parties offered, arguments heard which shall not exceed one hour for each side, and finally the judgment which shall be pronounced at the same hearing. The judgment of the District Court shall be final if the interested parties do not appeal to the Supreme Court within the period set by law and in the manner prescribed by Clause VIII.

In case of a violation of the guarantees of Articles 16, 19 and 20, recourse shall be had through the Appellate Court of the Court committing the breach or to the corresponding District Court. An appeal against the decision of any of these Courts may be taken to the Supreme Court.

If the District Judge shall not reside in the same locality as the official guilty of the violation, the Judge before whom the petition of "amparo" shall be submitted shall be determined by law; this Judge shall be authorized to suspend temporarily the execution of the act protested, in accordance with the terms established by law.

X—Any official failing to suspend the execution of the act protested, when in duty bound to do so, or when he admits an insufficient or improper bond, shall be turned over to the proper authorities; the civil and penal liability of the official shall in these cases be a joint liability with the person offering the bond and his surety.

XI—If after the granting of an "amparo," the guilty official shall persist in the act or acts against which the petition of "amparo" was filed, or shall seek to render of no effect the judgment of the Federal authority, he shall be forthwith removed from office and turned over for trial to the corresponding District Court.

XII—Wardens and jailers who fail to receive a duly certified copy of the formal order of commitment within the seventy-two hours granted by Article 19, reckoned from the time the accused is placed at the disposal of the Court, shall bring this fact to the attention of the Court, immediately upon expiration of this period; and if the proper order be not received within the next three hours the accused shall be set at liberty.

Any official who shall violate this provision and the Article referred to in the foregoing paragraph shall be immediately turned over to the proper authorities. Any official or agent thereof who, after an arrest has been made, shall fail to place the accused at the disposition of the Court within the next twenty-four hours shall himself be turned over to the proper authority.

If the detention be effected outside the locality in which the Court is situated, there shall be added to the period mentioned in the preceding sentence the time necessary to travel from the said locality to that where the detention took place.

TITLE IV

OF THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF OFFICIALS

Art. 108—Senators and Representatives of Congress, Justices of the Supreme Court, Secretaries of Executive Departments and the Attorney General of the Republic shall be liable for all common offenses committed during their term of office, as well as for all official offenses or acts of commission or omission in which they may incur in the discharge of their duties.

Governors of States and Members of State Legislatures shall be liable for violation of the Constitution and the Federal Laws.

The President of the Republic may only be impeached during his term of office for high treason and common offenses of a serious character.

Art. 109—If the offense belongs to the common order the House of Representatives, acting as a grand jury, shall determine by a majority vote of its total membership whether there is or is not any ground for proceeding against the accused.

If the finding be favorable to the accused, no further action shall be taken; but such finding shall not be a bar to the prosecution of the charge so soon as the constitutional privilege shall cease, since the finding of the House does not in any way determine the merits of the charge.

If the finding be adverse, the accused shall *ipso facto* be removed from office and be placed at the disposition of the ordinary courts of justice, except in the case of the President of the Republic, who may only be impeached before the Senate as in the case of an official offense.

Art. 110—No constitutional privilege shall be extended to any high Federal functionary when tried for official offenses, misdemeanors or omissions committed in the discharge of another public office or commission, during the time in which the privilege is enjoyed by law. This provision shall be applicable to cases of common offenses committed during the discharge of the said office or commission. In order that proceedings may be instituted when the functionary shall have returned to his original office the provisions set forth in the foregoing article shall be observed.

Art. 111—The Senate acting as a grand jury shall try all cases of impeachment; but it may not institute such proceedings without a previous accusation brought by the House of Representatives.

If the Senate should, after hearing the accused and conducting such proceedings as it may deem advisable, determine by a majority vote of two-thirds of its total membership that the accused is guilty, the latter shall be forthwith removed from office by virtue of such decision, or be disqualified from holding any other office for such time as the law may determine.

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[*] This unique feature of Mexican law combines the essential elements of the extraordinary writs of *habeas corpus, certiorari* and *mandamus*. It is a Federal procedure designed to give immediate protection when any of the fundamental rights of man are infringed by any authority, irrespective of category, or to excuse the obedience of a law or decree which has invaded the Federal or local sphere. Its use is most extensive, embracing minors, persons absent abroad acting through a "next friend," corporations, etc. An important feature is that it merely gives protection to a *specific* person or entity, and never makes any general statement of law. It could, hence, never declare a law unconstitutional, though it would give immediate protection as soon as the law in question acted on any person. H. N. B.

When the same offense is punishable with an additional penalty, the accused shall be placed at the disposition of the regular authorities who shall judge and sentence him in accordance with the law.

In all cases embraced by this article and in those included by the preceding both the decisions of the Grand Jury and the findings of the House of Representatives shall be final.

Any person shall have the right to denounce before the House of Representatives offenses of a common order or of an official character committed by high Federal functionaries; and whenever the said House of Representatives shall determine that there exist good grounds for impeachment proceedings before the Senate, it shall name a committee from among its own members to sustain the charges brought.

The Congress shall as soon as possible enact a law as to the responsibility of all Federal officials and employees which shall fix as official offenses all acts, of commission or omission, which may prejudice the public interest and efficient administration, even though such acts may not heretofore have been considered offenses. These officials shall be tried by a jury in the same manner as provided for trials by jury in Article 20.

Art. 112—No pardon shall be granted the offender in cases of impeachment.

Art. 113—The responsibility for official breaches and offenses may only be enforced during such time as the functionary shall remain in office and for one year thereafter.

Art. 114—In civil cases no privilege nor immunity in favor of any public functionary shall be recognized.

TITLE V

OF THE STATES OF THE FEDERATION.

Art. 115—The States shall adopt for their internal administration the popular, representative, republican form of government; they shall have as the basis of their territorial division and political and administrative organizaation the free municipality, in accordance with the following provisions:

I—Each municipality shall be administered by a town council chosen by direct vote of the people, and no authority shall intervene between the municipality and the State Government.

II—The municipalities shall freely administer their own revenues which shall be derived from the taxes fixed by the State Legislatures which shall at all times be sufficient to meet their needs.

III—The municipalities shall be regarded as enjoying corporate existence for all legal purposes.

The Federal Executive and the State Governors shall have command over all public forces of the municipalities wherein they may permanently or temporarily reside.

Constitutional State Governors shall not be reelected, nor shall their term of office exceed four years.

The prohibitions of Article 83 are applicable to Governors, and to substitute or *ad interim* governors.

The number of Representatives in the State Legislatures shall be in proportion to the inhabitants of each State, but in no case shall the number of representatives in any State Legislature be less than fifteen.

Each Electoral District of the States shall chose a Representative and an alternate to the State Legislature.

Every State Governor shall be a Mexican citizen by birth and a native thereof, or resident therein not less than five years immediately prior to the day of election.

Art. 116—The States shall have the power to fix among themselves by friendly agreements their respective boundaries; but these agreements shall not be carried into effect without the approval of the Congress.

Art. 117—No State shall—

I—Enter into alliances, treaties or coalitions with another State or with foreign powers.

II—Grant letters of marque or reprisal.

III—Coin money, issue paper money, stamps or stamped paper.

IV—Levy taxes on persons or property passing through its territory.

V—Prohibit or tax, directly or indirectly, the entry into its territory or the withdrawal therefrom of any merchandise, foreign or domestic.

VI—Burden the circulation or consumption of domestic or foreign merchandise with taxes or duties to be collected by local custom houses or subject to inspection the said merchandise or require it to be accompanied by documents.

VII—Enact or maintain in force laws or fiscal regulations discriminating, by taxation or otherwise, between merchandise, foreign or domestic, on account of its origin. whether this discrimination be established with regard to similar local products or to similar products of foreign origin.

VIII—Issue bonds of the public debt payable in foreign coin or outside the Federal Territory; contract loans, directly or indirectly, with any foreign government, or assume any obligation in favor of any foreign corporation or individual, requiring the issue of certificates or bonds payable to bearer or negotiable by endorsement.

The Federal Congress and the State Legislatures shall forthwith enact laws against alcoholism.

Art. 118—No State shall, without the consent of the Congress:

I—Establish tonnage dues or other port charges, or impose taxes or other duties upon imports or exports.

II—Keep at any time permanent troops or vessels of war.

Make war on its own behalf on any foreign power, except in cases of invasion or of such imminent peril as to admit of no delay. In such event the State shall give notice immediately to the President of the Republic.

Art. 119—Every State is bound to deliver without delay to the demanding authorities the fugitives from justice from other States or from foreign nations.

In such cases the writ of the Court granting the extradition shall operate as a sufficient warrant for the detention of the accused for one month, in the case of extradition from one State to another, and for two months in the case of international extradition.

Art. 120—The State Governors are bound to publish and enforce the Federal laws.

Art. 121—Full faith and credit shall be given in each State of the Federation to the public acts, records and judicial proceedings of all the other States. The Congress shall by general laws prescribe the manner of proving the said acts, records and proceedings and the effect thereof as hereinafter provided.

I—The laws of a State shall only be binding within its own confines, and shall therefore have no extraterritorial force.

II—Movable and immovable property shall be governed by the *lex sitae*.

III—Judgments of a State Court as to property and property rights situated in another State shall only be binding when expressly so provided by the law of the latter State.

Judgments relating to personal rights shall only be binding in another State provided the person shall have expressly, or impliedly by reason of domicile, submitted to the jurisdiction of the Court rendering such judgment, and provided further that personal service shall have been secured.

IV—All acts of civil status performed in accordance with the laws of one State shall be binding in all other States.

V—All professional licenses issued by the authorities of one State in accordance with its laws, shall be valid in all other States.

Art. 122—The Powers of the Union are bound to protect the States against all invasion or external violence. In case of insurrection or internal disturbance they shall give them the same protection, provided the Legislature of the State, or the Executive thereof if the Legislature is not in session, shall so request.

TITLE VI

OF LABOR AND SOCIAL WELFARE.

Art. 123—The Congress and the State Legislatures shall make laws relative to labor with due regard for the needs of each region of the Republic, and in conformity with the following principles, and these principles and laws shall govern the labor of skilled and unskilled workmen, employees, domestic servants and artisans, and in general every contract of labor.

I—Eight hours shall be the maximum limit of a day's work.

II—The maximum limit of night work shall be seven hours. Unhealthy and dangerous occupations are forbidden to all women and to children under sixteen years of age. Night work in factories is likewise forbidden to women and to children under sixteen years of age; nor shall they be employed in commercial establishments after ten o'clock at night.

III—The maximum limit of a day's work for children over twelve and under sixteen years of age shall be six hours. The work of children under twelve years of age cannot be made the object of a contract.

IV—Every workman shall enjoy at least one day's rest for every six days' work.

V—Women shall not perform any physical work requiring considerable physical effort during the three months immediately preceding parturition; during the month following parturition they shall necessarily enjoy a period of rest and shall receive their salaries or wages in full and retain their employment and the rights they may have acquired under their contracts. During the period of lactation they shall enjoy two extraordinary daily periods of rest of one-half hour each in order to nurse their children.

VI—The minimum wage to be received by a workman shall be that considered sufficient, according to the conditions prevailing in the respective region of the country, to satisfy the normal needs of the life of the workman, his education and his lawful pleasures, considering him as the head of a family. In all agricultural, commercial, manufacturing or mining enterprises the workmen shall have the right to participate in the profits in the manner fixed in Clause IX of this article.

VII—The same compensation shall be paid for the same work without regard to sex or nationality.

VIII—The minimum wage shall be exempt from attachment, set-off or discount.

IX—The determination of the minimum wage and of the rate of profit-sharing described in Clause VI shall be made by special commissions to be appointed in each municipality and to be subordinated to the Central Board of Conciliation to be established in each State.

X—All wages shall be paid in legal currency and shall not be paid in merchandise, orders, counters or any other representative token with which it is sought to substitute money.

XI—When owing to special circumstances it becomes necessary to increase the working hours there shall be paid as wages for the overtime one hundred per cent more than those fixed for regular time. In no case shall the overtime exceed three hours nor continue for more than three consecutive days; and no women of whatever age nor boys under sixteen years of age may engage in overtime work.

XII—In every agricultural, industrial, mining or similar class of work employers are bound to furnish their workmen comfortable and sanitary dwelling-places for which they may charge rents not exceeding one-half of one per cent per month of the assessed value of the properties. They shall likewise establish schools, dispensaries and other services necessary to the community. If the factories are located within inhabited places and more than one hundred persons are employed therein, the first of the above-mentioned conditions shall be complied with.

XIII—Furthermore, there shall be set aside in these labor centers, whenever their population exceeds two hundred inhabitants, a space of land not less than five thousand square meters for the establishment of public markets, and the construction of buildings designed for municipal services and places of amusement. No saloons nor gambling houses shall be permitted in such labor centers.

XIV—Employers shall be liable for labor accidents and occupational diseases arising from work; therefore, employers shall pay the proper indemnity, according to whether death or merely temporary or permanent disability has ensued, in accordance with the provisions of law. This liability shall remain in force even though the employer contract for the work through an agent.

XV—Employers shall be bound to observe in the installation of their establishments all the provisions of law regarding hygiene and sanitation and to adopt adequate measures to prevent accidents due to the use of machinery, tools and working materials, as well as to organize work in such a manner as to assure the greatest guarantees possible for the health and lives of workmen compatible with the nature of the work, under penalties which the law shall determine.

XVI—Workmen and employers shall have the right to unite for the defense of their respective interests, by forming syndicates, unions, etc.

XVII—The law shall recognize the right of workmen and employers to strike and to suspend work.

XVIII—Strikes shall be lawful when by the employment of peaceful means they shall aim to bring about a balance between the various factors of production, and to harmonize the rights of capital and labor. In public services, the workmen shall be obliged to give notice ten days in advance to the Board of Conciliation and Arbtration of the date set for the suspension of work. Strikes shall only be considered unlawful when the majority of the strikers shall resort to acts of violence against persons or property, or in case of war when the strikers belong to establishments and services dependent on the government. Employees of military manufacturing establishments of the Federal Government shall not be included in the provisions of this clause inasmuch as they are a dependency of the national army.

XIX—Lockouts shall only be lawful when the excess of production shall render it necessary to shut down in order to maintain prices reasonably above the cost of production, subject to the approval of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration.

XX Differences or disputes between capital and labor shall be submitted for settlement to a board of conciliation and arbitration to consist of an equal number of representatives of the workmen and of the employers and of one representative of the Government.

XXI—If the employer shall refuse to submit his differences to arbitration or to accept the award rendered by the Board the labor contract shall be considered as terminated, and the employer shall be bound to indemnify the workman by the payment to him of three months' wages, in addition to the liability which he may have incurred by reason of the dispute. If the workman reject the award the contract will be held to have terminated.

XXII—An employer who discharges a workman without proper cause or for having joined a union or syndicate or for having taken part in a lawful strike shall be bound, at the option of the workman, either to perform the contract or to indemnify him by the payment of three months' wages. He shall incur the same liability if the workman shall leave his service on account of the lack of good faith on the part of the employer or of maltreatment either as to his own person or that of his wife, parents, children or brothers or sisters. The employer cannot evade this liability when the maltreatment is inflicted by subordinates or agents acting with his consent or knowledge.

XXIII—Claims of workmen for salaries or wages accrued during the past year and other indemnity claims shall be preferred over any other claims in cases of bankruptcy or execution proceedings.

XXIV—Debts contracted by workmen in favor of their employers or their employers' associates, subordinates or agents, may only be charged against the workmen themselves and in no case and for no reason collected from the members of his family. Nor shall such debts be paid by the taking of more than the entire wages of the workman for any one month.

XXV—No fee shall be charged for finding work for workmen by municipal offices, employment bureaus or other public or private agencies.

XXVI—Every contract between a Mexican citizen and a foreign principal shall be legalized before the competent municipal authority and viseed by the Consul of the nation to which the workman is undertaking to go, on the understanding that in addition to the usual clauses special and clear provisions shall be inserted for the payment by the foreign principal making the contract of the cost to the laborer of repatriation.

XXVII The following stipulations shall be null and void and shall not bind the contracting parties, even though embodied in the contract:

(a) Stipulations providing for inhuman day's work on account of its notorious excessiveness, in view of the nature of the work.

(b) Stipulations providing for a wage rate which in the judgment of the Board of Conciliation and Arbitration is not remunerative

(c) Stipulations providing for a term of more than one week before the payment of wages.

(d) Stipulations providing for the assigning of places of amusement, eating places, cafes, taverns, saloons or shops for the payment of wages, when employees of such establishments are not involved.

(e) Stipulations involving a direct or indirect obligation to purchase articles of consumption in specified shops or places.

(f) Stipulations permitting the retention of wages by way of fines.

(g) Stipulations constituting a waiver on the part of the workman of the indemnities to which he may become entitled by reason of labor accidents or occupational diseases, damages for nonperformance of the contract, or for discharge from work.

(h) All other stipulations implying the waiver of some right vested in the workman by labor laws.

XXVIII—The law shall decide what property constitutes the family estate. These goods shall be inalienable and may not be mortgaged, garnished or attached and may be bequeathed and inherited with simplified formalities in the succession proceedings.

XXIX—Institutions of popular insurance established for old age, sickness, life, unemployment, accident and others of a similar character, are considered of social utility; the Federal and State Governments shall therefore encourage the organization of institutions of this character in order to instill and inculcate popular habits of thrift.

XXX—Cooperative associations for the construction of cheap and sanitary dwelling houses for workmen shall likewise be considered of social utility whenever these properties are designed to be acquired in ownership by the workmen within specified periods.

TITLE VII

OF GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 124—All powers not expressly vested by this Constitution in the Federal authorities are understood to be reserved to the States.

Art. 125—No person shall hold at the same time two Federal offices or one Federal and one State elective office; if elected to two, he shall choose between them.

Art. 126—No payment shall be made which is not included in the Budget or authorized by a law subsequent to the same.

Art. 127—The President of the Republic, the Justices of the Supreme Court, Representatives and Senators and other public officials of the Federation who are chosen by popular election shall receive a compensation for their services which shall be paid by the Federal Treasury and determined by law. This compensation may not be waived, and any law increasing or decreasing it shall have no effect during the period for which the functionary holds office.

Art. 128—Every public official, without exception, shall, before entering on the discharge of his duties, make an affirmation to maintain this constitution and the laws arising thereunder.

Art. 129—In time of peace no military authorities shall exercise other functions than those bearing direct relation to military discipline. No fixed and permanent military posts shall be established other than in castles, forts and arsenals depending directly upon the Federal Government, or in camps, barracks, or depots, established outside of inhabited places for the stationing of troops.

Art. 130—The Federal authorities shall have exclusive power to exercise in matters of religious worship and outward ecclesiastical forms, such intervention as by law authorized. All other officials shall act as auxiliaries to the Federal authorities.

The Congress shall not enact any law establishing or forbidding any religion whatsoever.

Marriage is a civil contract. Marriage and all other acts relating to the civil status of individuals shall appertain to the exclusive jurisdiction of the civil authorities in the manner and form by law provided, and they shall have the force and validity given them by said laws.

A simple promise to tell the truth and to comply with obligations contracted shall subject the promisor, in the event of a breach, to the penalties established therefor by law.

The law recognizes no corporate existence in the religious associations known as churches.

The Ministers of religious creeds shall be considered as persons exercising a profession and shall be directly subject to the laws enacted on the subject.

The State Legislatures shall have the exclusive power of determining the maximum number of ministers of religious creeds according to the needs of each locality. Only a Mexican by birth may be a minister of any religious creed in Mexico.

No ministers of religious creeds shall, either in public or private meetings, or in acts of worship or religious propaganda, criticise the fundamental laws of the country, the authorities in particular or the Government in general; they shall have no vote, nor be eligible to office, nor shall they be entitled to assemble for political purposes.

Before dedicating new temples of worship for public use, permission shall be obtained from the Department of the Interior (Gobernacion); the opinion of the respective Governor of the State shall be previously heard on the subject. Every place of worship shall have a person charged with its care and maintenance, who shall be legally responsible for the faithful performance of the laws on religious observances within the said place of worship, and for all the objects used for purposes of worship.

The caretaker of each place of public worship, together with ten citizens of the place, shall promptly advise the municipal authorities as to the person charged with the care of the said place of worship. The outgoing minister shall in every instance give notice of any change, for which purpose he shall be accompanied by the incoming minister and ten other citizens of the place. The municipal authorities under penalty of dismissal and fine, not exceeding 1,000 pesos for each breach, shall be responsible for the exact performance of this provision; they shall keep a register of the places of worship and another of the caretakers thereof, subject to the same penalty as above provided. The municipal authorities shall likewise give notice to the Department of the Interior through the intermediary of the State Governor, of any permission to open to the public use a new place of worship, as well as of any change in the caretakers. Gifts of personalty may be received in the interior of places of public worship.

Under no conditions shall studies carried on in institutions devoted to the professional training of ministers of religious creeds be ratified or be granted any other dispensation of privilege which shall have for its purpose the ratification of the said studies in official institutions. Any authority violating this provision shall be punished criminally and all such dispensation of privilege be null and void, and shall invalidate wholly and entirely the professional degree toward the obtaining of which the infraction of this provision may in any way have contributed.

No periodical publication which either by reason of its program, its title or merely by its general tendencies, is of a religious character, shall comment upon any political affairs of the nation, nor publish any information regarding the acts of the authorities of the country or of private individuals insofar as the latter have to do with public affairs.

Every kind of political association whose name shall bear any word or any indication relating to any religious belief is hereby strictly forbidden. No assemblies of any political character shall be held within places of public worship.

No minister of any religious creed may inherit either on his own behalf or by means of a trustee or otherwise, any real property occupied by any association of religious propaganda or religious or charitable purposes. Ministers of religious creeds are incapable legally of inheriting by will from ministers of the same religious sect or from any private individual to whom they are not related by blood within the fourth degree.

All real and personal property pertaining to the clergy or to religious institutions shall be governed, insofar as their acquisition by private parties is concerned, in conformity with Article 27 of this Constitution.

No trial by jury shall ever be granted for the infraction of any of the preceding provisions.

Art. 131 The Federal Government shall have exclusive power to levy duties on merchandise imported, exported or passing in transit through the national Territory as well as to regulate at all times, and if necessary to forbid, for the sake of public safety or for police reasons, the circulation in the interior of the Republic of all kinds of goods, regardless of their origin; but the Federal Government shall have no power to establish or decree in the Federal District and Federal Territories the taxes and laws to which Clauses VI and VII of Article 117 refer.

Art. 132—All forts, barracks, warehouses, and other real property, destined by the Federal Government for public service or common use shall be under the jurisdiction of the Federal authorities in accordance with the law which the Congress shall issue on the subject; any of these establishments which may subsequently be acquired within the territory of any State shall likewise be subject to Federal jurisdiction, provided consent thereto shall have been obtained from the respective State Legislature.

Art. 133—This Constitution and the laws of the United States of Mexico which shall be made in pursuance thereof and all treaties made or which shall be made under the authority of the President of the Republic, by and with the approval and consent of the Congress, shall be the supreme law of the land. And the Judges in every State shall be bound by this Constitution and by these laws and treaties, anything in the Constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding.

Art. 134—Bids shall be called for on all contracts which the Government may have occasion to enter into for the execution of any public works; these bids shall be submitted under seal and shall only be opened publicly.

TITLE VIII

OF THE AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Article 135—The present Constitution may be added to or amended. No amendment or addition shall become part of the Constitution until agreed to by the Congress of the Union by a two-thirds vote of the Members present and approved by a majority of the State Legislatures. The Congress shall count the votes of the Legislatures and make the declaration that the amendments or additions have been adopted.

TITLE IX

OF THE INVIOLABILITY OF THE CONSTITUTION

Article 136—This Constitution shall not lose its force and vigor even though its observance be interrupted by rebellion. In case that through any public disturbance a Government contrary to the principles which it sanctions be established, its force shall be restored so soon as the people shall regain their liberty and those who have participated in the Government emanating from the rebellion or have cooperated with it shall be tried in accordance with its provisions and with the laws arising under it.

TRANSITORY ARTICLES

Article 1—This Constitution shall be published at once and a solemn oath taken to defend and enforce it throughout the Republic; but its provisions, except those relating to the election of the supreme powers, Federal and State, shall not go into effect until the first day of May, 1917, at which time the Constitutional Congress shall be solemnly convened and the oath of office taken by the citizen chosen at the forthcoming elections to discharge the duties of President of the Republic.

The provisions of Clause V of Article 82 shall not be applicable in the elections to be summoned in accordance with Article 2 of the Transitory Articles nor shall active service in the army act as a disqualification for the office of Representative or Senator, provided the candidate shall not have active command of troops in the respective electoral district.

Nor shall the Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries of Executive Departments be disqualified from election to the next Federal Congress, provided they shall definitively resign from office on the day on which the respective call is issued.

Article 2—The person charged with the executive power of the Nation shall immediately upon the publication of this Constitution call for elections to fill the Federal offices; he shall see that these elections be held so that Congress may be constituted within a reasonable time, in order that it may count the cast in the presidential elections and make known the name of the person who has been elected President of the Republic, this shall be done in order that the provisions of the foregoing article may be complied with.

Article 3—The next constitutional term shall be computed in the case of Senators and Representatives, from the first of September last, and in the case of the President of the Republic from the first of December, 1916.

Article 4—Senators who in the coming election shall be classified as "even" shall serve only two years in order that the Senate may be renewed by half every two years.

Article 5—The Congress shall in the month of May next choose the Justices of the Supreme Court in order that this Tribunal may be constituted on the first day of June, 1917.

In these elections Article 96 shall not govern in so far as the candidates proposed by the State Legislatures are concerned; but those chosen shall be designated for the first term of two years prescribed by Article 94.

Article 6—The Congress shall meet in extraordinary session on the fifteenth day of April, 1917, to act as an electoral college, for the computing of the ballots and the determination of the election of President of the Republic, at which time it shall make known the results; it shall likewise enact the organic law of the Circuit and District Courts, the organic law of the Tribunals of the Federal District and Territories, in order that the Supreme Court of Justice may immediately appoint the Inferior and Superior District and Circuit Judges; at the same session the Congress shall choose the Superior Judges and Judges of First Instance of the Federal District and Territories, and shall also enact all laws submitted by the Executive. The Circuit and District Judges and the Superior and Inferior Judges of the Federal District and Territories shall take office not later than the first day of July, 1917, at which time such as shall have been temporarily appointed by the person now charged with the Executive power of the nation shall cease to act.

Art. 7—For this occasion only the votes for the office of Senator shall be counted by the Board of the First Electoral District of each State or of the Federal District which shall be instituted for the counting of the votes of Representatives. This Board shall issue the respective credentials to the Senators-elect.

Art. 8—The Supreme Court shall decide all pending petitions of "amparo" in accordance with the laws at present in force.

Art. 9—The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, charged with the executive power of the Nation, is hereby authorized to issue the electoral law according to which on this occasion the elections to fill the various Federal offices shall be held.

Art. 10—All persons who shall have taken part in the Government emanating from the rebellion against the legitimate government of the Republic, or who may have given aid to the said rebellion and later taken up arms or held any office or commission of the factions, which have opposed the constitutionalist government, shall be tried in accordance with the laws at present in force, provided they shall not have been previously pardoned by the said constitutionalist government.

Art. 11—Until such time as the Congress of the Union and the State Legislatures shall legislate on the agrarian and labor problems, the bases established by this Constitution for the said laws shall be put into force throughout the Republic.

Art. 12—All Mexicans who shall have fought in the ranks of the constitutionalist army and their children and widows and all other persons who shall have rendered service to the cause of the revolution, or to public instruction, shall be preferred in the acquisition of lots to which Article 27 refers, and shall be entitled to such rebates as the law shall determine.

Art. 13—All debts contracted by working men on account of work up to the date of this Constitution with masters, their subordinates and agents are hereby declared wholly and entirely extinguished.

Art. 14—The Departments of Justice and of Public Instruction and Fine Arts are hereby abolished.

Art. 15—The citizen at present charged with the executive power is hereby authorized to issue the law of civil responsibility applicable to all promoters, accomplices and abettors of the offenses committed against the constitutional order in the month of February, 1913, and against the Constitutionalist Government.

Art. 16—The Constitutional Congress in the regular period of sessions, which will begin on the first day of September of the present year, shall issue all the organic laws of the Constitution which may not have been already issued in the extraordinary session to which Transitory Article number 6 refers; and it shall give preference to the laws relating to the rights of man and to Articles 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 107 and the latter part of Article 111 of this Constitution.

(Signed)
President—Luis Manuel Rojas.
First Vice-President—General of Division C. Aguilar.
Second Vice-President—General of Brigade Salvador Gonzales Torres.

DEPUTIES

Aguascalientes—Daniel Cervantes.
Baja California—Ignacio Roel.
Coahuila—M. Aguirre Berlanga, Jose M. Rodrigues, J. E. von Versen, Manuel Cepeda M., Jose Rodriguez (alternate).
Colima—J. Ramirez Villarreal.
Chiapas—Enrique Suarez, Lisandro Lopez, Cristobal Ll. y Castillo, Daniel N. Zepeda, J. Amilcar Vidal.
Chihuahua—M. Prieto.
Distrito Federal—Gen. I. L. Pesqueira, Lauro Lopez Guerra, Gerzayn Ugarte, Amador Lozano, Felix F. Palavicini, C. Duplan, Rafael R. de los Rios, Arnulfo Silva, A. Norzagaray, Ciro B. Ceballos, Alfonso Herrera, R. Rosas y Reyes (alternate), Lic. Francisco Espinosa (alternate).
Durango—Silvestre Dorador, Lic. Rafael Espeleta, Antonio Gutierrez, Dr. Fernando Gomez Palacio, Alberto Terrones B., Jesus de la Torre.
Guanajuato—Gen. Lic. Ramon Frausto, Eng. Vicente M. Valtierra, Jose N. Macias, David Penaflor, Jose Villasenor, Santiago Manrique, Lic. Hilario Medina, M. G. Aranda, Enrique Colunga, Eng. Ignacio Lopez, Dr. J. Diaz Barriga, Nicolas Cano, Lieutenant-Colonel Gilberto M. Navarro, Luis Fernandez M., Eng. Carlos Ramirez Llaca.
Guerrero—Fidel Jimenez, Fid. Guillen, Francisco Figueroa.
Hidalgo—Antonio Guerrero, Leopoldo Ruiz, Lic. Alberto M. Gonzales, Raf. Vega Sanchez, Alfonso Cravioto, Matias Rodriguez, Ismael Pintado Sanchez, Lic. Refugio M. Mercado, Alfonso Mayorga.
Jalisco—M. Davalos, Federico E. Ibarra, Manuel Davalos Ornelas, Francisco Martin del Campo, B. Moreno, G. Bolados N., Juan de Dios Robledo, Ramon Castaneda y Castaneda, Jorge Villasenor, Gen. Amado Aguirre, Jose I. Solorzano, Francisco Labastida Izquierdo, J. Ramos, Praslow, Lieutenant Colonel Jose Manzano, J. Aguirre Berlanga, Brigadier Esteban B. Calderon, P. Machorro y Narvaez and Coronel Sebastian Allende J.
Mexico—Aldegundo Villasenor F. Moreno, E. O'Farril, Guillermo Ordarica, Jose Romero, A. Aguilar, Juan Manuel Giffard, Manuel A. Hernandez, E. A. Enriquez, Donato Bravo Izquierdo, Ruben Marti.
Michoacan—J. Ruiz, Alberto Peralta, Cayetano Andrade, Uriel Aviles, G. R. Cervera, O. Lopez Couto, S. Alcazar R., M. Martinez Solorzano, Martin Castrejon, Lic. Alberto Alvarado, Jose Alvarez, Rafael Marquez, J. Silva Herrera, Amadeo Betancourt, Francisco Mujica, Jesus Romero Flores.
Morelos—Antonio Garza Zambrano, Jose L. Gomez and Alvaro L. Alcazar.
Nuevo Leon—Manuel Amaya, Niceforo Zambrano, Luis Hizaliturri, Col. Ramon Gamez, Reynaldo Garza, Plutarco Gonzalez.
Oaxaca—Juan Sanchez, Leopoldo Payan, Lic. Manuel Cabrera, Col. Jose F. Gomez and Luis Espinosa.
Puebla—Dr. Salvador R. Guzman, Lic. Rafael P. Canete, M. Rosales, Gabriel Rojano, Lic. D. Pastrana J., Froylan C. Manjarrez, Lieutenant-Colonel Antonio de la Barrera, Mayor Jose Rivera, Col. Epigmenio A. Martinez, Pastor Rouaix, Colonel of Engineers, Luis T. Navarro, Lieutenant-Colonel

Federico Dinorin, Gen. Gabino Bandera Malo, Col. Porfirio del Castillo, Col. Dr. Gilberto de la Fuente, Alfonso Cabrera, J. Verastegui.

Queretaro—Juan N. Frias and E. Perusquia.

San Luis Potosi—S. M. Santos, Dr. Arturo Mendez, Rafael Martinez Mendoza, Rafael Nieto, Dionisio Zavala, G. A. Tello, Rafael Curiel, Cosme Davila (alternate).

Sinaloa—Pedro R. Zavala, A. Magallon, C. M. Ezquerro, C. Aviles, Emiliano C. Garcia.

Sonora—L. G. Monzon, Ramon Ross.

Tabasco—Lic. Rafael Martinez de Escobar, Santiago Ocompo C., and C. Sanchez Magallanes.

Tamaulipas—Pedro A. Chapa, Zef. Fajardo, Emiliano Prospero Nafarrate, F. de Leija.

Tepic—Lieutenant-Colonel C. Liman, Major Marcelino Cedano, Juan Espinosa Bavara.

Tlaxcala—Antonio Hidalgo, Ascencion Tepal and Modesto Gonzalez Galindo.

Vera Cruz—Saul Rodiles, Enrique Meza, Benito Ramirez G., A. G. Garcia, E. Cespedes, Josafat F. Marquez, Alfredo Solares, Alberto Roman, Silvestre Aguilar, Angel S. Juarico, H. Jara, Victorio E. Gongora, M. Torres, C. L. Gracidas (alternate), J. de D. Palma, G. Casados, F. A. Pereyra.

Yucatan—Enrique Recio, Miguel Alonzo Romero, Hector Victoria A.

Zacatecas—Adolfo Villasenor, Julian Adame, Jairo R. Dyer, Samuel Castanon, A. L. Arteaga, Antonio Cervantes, Colonel J. Aguirre Escobar.

Secretary—F. Lizardi, Deputy from Guanajuato.

Secretary—E. Meade Fierro, Deputy from Coahuila.

Secretary—Jose M. Truchuelo, Deputy from Queretaro.

Secretary—Antonio Ancona A., Deputy from Yucatan.

Sub-Secretary—Dr. J. Lopez Lira, Deputy from Guanajuato.

Sub-Secretary—Juan de Dios Borquez, Deputy from Sonora.

Sub-Secretary—Flavio A. Bojorquez, Deputy from Sonora.

Queretaro de Arteaga, January 31, 1917.

A pamphlet edition, covering a comparison of the texts of the constitutions of 1857 and 1917, with explanatory notes, is in preparation.

TREND OF PROGRESS

Among the new and important provisions of the Constitution as adopted at Queretaro is the institution of a Department of Public Health with jurisdiction over the entire Republic.

Notice has been given to all drug store proprietors in the city of Mexico that they must give the public access to their places of business at all hours of the night when necessary

The force of workmen employed upon the National Theater in Mexico City has been considerably augmented and it is hoped to be able to advance the work of construction materially at an early date.

During the months of January and February the importation of automobiles was permitted into the State of Sonora free of duty in order to aid in the restoration of mining and other industries to complete activity.

The authorities of San Luis Potosi have closed the establishments of a number of dealers who persisted in demanding prices for their goods that were out of proportion with their cost and caused hardship to the people.

Announcement is made that the sum of three million dollars specie will be devoted to the improvement of the Port of Manzanillo, in order to accommodate the constantly increasing commerce of the west coast of the Republic.

It is proposed to establish an exhibit of the products of Mexico at Valencia, Spain, in order to promote commerce between the two countries, there being a constant demand for raw material of various kinds produced in the Republic.

There having been a marked decrease in the wholesale prices of food articles of prime necessity in the capital city, the local authorities and the Chamber of Commerce have prepared a new scale of retail charges for the same which has greatly benefited consumers of all classes.

A comprehensive plan is under consideration by the Government for the encouragement of the development of the resources of the country through the means of establishing industries of various kinds throughout the Republic under expert management. Every branch of industry will receive attention.

An establishment will be opened in Mexico City at which soldiers will be able to obtain all articles of necessary consumption at much less than the rates demanded by dealers. These goods, which will be principally food supplies of prime necessity, will be distributed at as near cost as possible.

Reports from the State of Tabasco are to the effect that normal conditions are being restored with rapidity in all branches. A comprehensive plan for the embellishment of the capital city, villahermosa, is being carried out with good effect. Steamship service has also been greatly improved with good general results, that being the only means of communication with the outside world.

A careful study of the various uses of guayule, the wonderful desert rubber producing shrub, is to be made by the Biological Institute of Mexico City.

The Government of the State of Hidalgo has directed the establishment of a new civil hospital in the city of Pachuca.

Among other improvements in the port of Tampico two lighthouses with lanterns of high power are to be installed on the jetties leading to the deep-water channel.

A very active anti-alcoholic campaign is being carried on in Sonora by the authorities, and those selling intoxicating beverages in secret are severely punished.

The Supreme Tribunal of Justice has been established in Guadalajara and has entered upon the performance of its duties in the administration of the civil law.

A large number of the pulque shops on the principal streets of Mexico City have been closed, and it is proposed to abolish them entirely within a short time.

Reports from Tampico state that the economic situation has been entirely relieved, as all employees are now paying their help either in Mexico specie or American currency.

The Department of Public Health of the City of Mexico reports the existence of very few cases of typhus fever and that normal conditions in this respect have been practically restored.

The authorities of Durango City have established agencies for the sale of food articles of prime necessity at lower than market rates. This has been done in many other portions of the Republic.

Telegraphic money order service in national specie has been resumed with all portions of the Republic.

The Governmental agencies in Mexico City for the sale of food at low prices are all abundantly supplied with stocks to meet every possible demand.

The local authorities of Mazatlan have commenced a comprehensive system of enbellishment of that city, including the renovation of plazas, planting of flower gardens and lawns and other attractions.

Major E. M. Cirlos of the Constitutionalist army has patented a new torpedo for use in aeroplanes which explodes either automatically in the air or by percussion when striking any object or the earth.

The Department of Fomento has granted a concession for the draining of Lake Cuitzeo, in the State of Michoacan, a shallow body of water, thereby adding a large area to the arable land of that locality.

The ancient municipal palace in Vera Cruz is being demolished in order to provide for the extension of the Plaza Constitution over its site, which is one of the most valuable pieces of real estate in the city.

The first steamer of the new Norwegian line arrived at Vera Cruz on January 3d from New Orleans with a full cargo of flour, lard, salmon and other food products.

Active work is being prosecuted in the repair and construction of wharves at the port of Mazatlan, which are greatly needed for the increasing foreign commerce of that port.

The port improvements at Progreso, Yucatan, are being pushed with vigor, notably the drainage of a large area of semi-inundated land, thus greatly improving sanitary conditions.

Heavy importations of agricultural and mining machinery are reported from all ports of entry in Northern Mexico, to meet the demand caused by the general resumption of activity in those branches.

The game of baseball continues to increase in favor all over the Republic. All the newspapers devote large space to reports of the games, as well as to other forms of sport, such as football, basketball, cricket, etc.

Governor Mireles of Coahuila is considering the feasibility of re-establishing the former "free zone" along the boundary of that State on the north for the benefit of the residents of that section. It is considered that this will assist in restoring and mainaining normal conditions to a marked degree.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Information has been received by the Secretary of Foreign Relations that there is an extensive demand for cotton in Japan, and that the product of Mexico can find an outlet there if desired.

The orange crop in Sonora, one of the chief centers of production of that fruit, amounted to over 250 carloads for export, while large quantities were consumed at home. The fruit of that region is of superior quality.

Because of the large crop of rice harvested in Mexico, the former import tax of about 1 cent per pound was restored on January 1, having been temporarily suspended during the food shortage.

The authorities of the state of Zacatecas have imported a large quantity of seed wheat of choice quality, which is being distributed to farmers for the purpose of improving the production of grain.

Under the supervision of the Department of Fomento extensive experiments are to be made in the cultivation of guayule, the desert rubber plant which has been a source of great wealth during the past ten years. It will be propagated in other sections from seeds brought from its native habitat.

Under the Department of Fomento the culture of silkworms is to be introduced and an experiment station has been established in the suburbs of the capital city for that purpose. It is believed this can become an important adjunct of the nation's productive resources, as all conditions, especially those of labor supply, are favorable.

Certain fertile lands made available by the drainage of the shores of Lake San Cristobal, in the Valley of Mexico, have been divided into tracts of two and one-half acres each, which are sold to small cultivators at the rate of $100 national specie per lot, ten years' time being allowed for payment. Only one lot is sold to each purchaser, and as the soil is very productive and crops may be raised continuously a single tract will support an ordinary family.

LAND NOTES

Under the authority of the National Agrarian Commission steps are being taken to utilize the waters of Lake Chapala, in the state of Jalisco, for irrigation in that and the adjoining state of Michoacan.

The Oaxaca Agrarian Commission has received numerous petitions for the establishment of new pueblos with suitable lands attached, which the petitioners wish to have allotted to them for cultivation. These petitions are all receiving favorable consideration.

The National Agrarian Commission has been officially congratulated by the First Chief and by Secretary of Fomento Rouaix for the able manner in which they have conducted the operations of that body in the restoration of community lands and otherwise.

Rapid progress is reported from the State of Oaxaca in the restoration of the "ejidos" or community lands to their rightful owners, for the most part Indians, who were despoiled of them under the Diaz regime.

A commission has been sent to the State of Michoacan for the purpose of delineating the lands that are included in the ejidos to be restored to their former and rightful owners, and also others that are to be established for the benefit of poor people who have petitioned for the same.

The ancient ejidos or community lands of the town of Agua Prieta, Sonora, have been restored and allotted to citizens who desire to cultivate them. They have been provided with irrigation facilities and crops are being planted with favorable prospects.

Six pueblos in the State of Colima have petitioned for the restoration of their ancient ejidos, or community lands, and the necessary steps are being taken to comply with the request.

The Mexican press publishes daily numerous accounts of the restoration of community lands to their rightful owners, who were despoiled of them under Diaz. These restorations cover all portions of the Republic and large areas of arable and pasture land.

General Eduardo Hay, President of the National Agrarian Commission, has issued a circular to the local agrarian commissions urging them to use prompt measures for the restoration of the community lands to all applicants from whom they were illegally taken, as well as the establishment of new pueblos where they are requested.

The Secretary of Fomento has declared canceled the concession granted the Sinaloa Land Company, a California concern, several years ago for the use of the waters of certain streams in the state of Sinaloa for irrigation purposes. This action was taken because of failure of the company named to carry out the provisions of its concession.

A careful study is being made of the concession granted under the Diaz administration to an American company for the exploitation of the rich agricultural lands of the Yaqui river valley, in Sonora, with the purpose of remedying certain complaints made against it and fully protecting the rights of the people to the use of the water and lands affected.

MEXICAN BUSINESS

THE REVIEW will undertake confidential inquiries and business commissions of all kinds in any portion of Mexico. It has connections of the highest character in that country and is in a position to obtain results promptly and satisfactorily. Those requiring services of that nature, with an assurance of such results, may address THE MEXICAN REVIEW, 613 Riggs Bldg., Washington, D. C. This service will be conducted free of charge, except where expense is entailed in obtaining the information in Mexico or the correspondent desires information by wire.

To Country Editors and Farmers:

If you want to learn all about the biggest and most successful farmer's coöperative system in the world, you should study the organization of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen of Yucatan.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for the advance in prices and what interests are back of the very costly campaign that is being waged against the Yucatan coöperative marketing system, you should read the SISAL BULLETIN, published every two weeks.

Millions of dollars are being spent by certain wealthy individuals and powerful corporations to regain control over the world's supply of the fibre that is used exclusively, almost, in the manufacture of binder twine for the American farmers. The Sisal Bulletin will keep you posted on this gigantic fight. A postcard or letter will get your name on the permanent mailing list and you will be glad that you found it. It is free.

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THE LI ESOTA
APR 13 1917

Mexican Review

A • JOURNAL • DEVOTED • TO THE • ENLIGHTENMENT • OF • THE AMERICAN • PEOPLE • IN • RESPECT TO • THE • HOPES • AMBITIONS BENEFICENT • INTENTIONS • AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS • OF • THE CONSTITUTIONALIST • GOVERNMENT • OF • THE • REPUBLIC • OF • MEXICO

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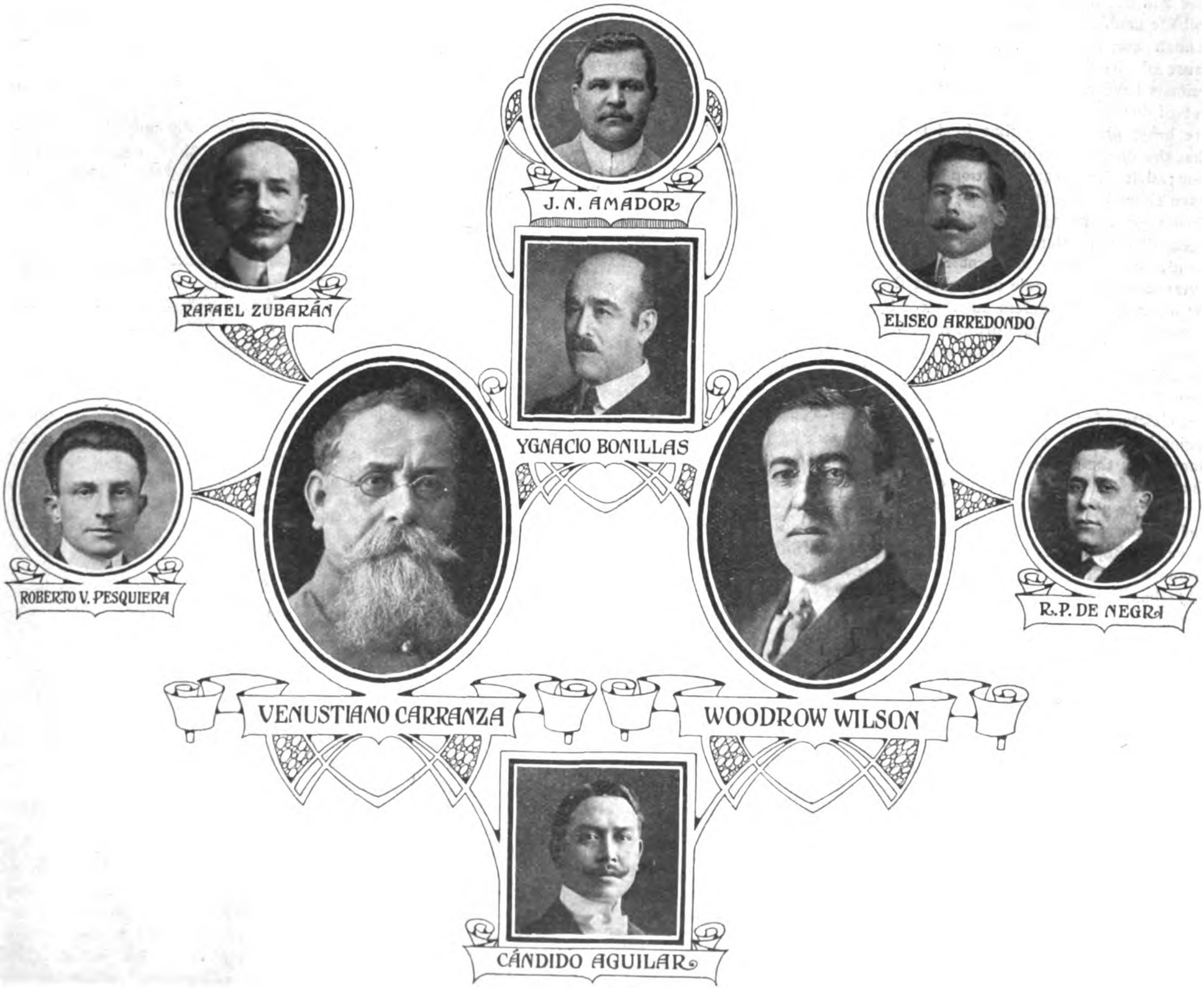
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MEXICO TODAY

What a Recent Journey Disclosed to an Old Resident of That Country

Mexico City, *March* 18, 1917.

Nothing except a personal visit to Mexico will enable any one to gain a correct idea of the actual present conditions of today. And those conditions are at such variance with the widely prevalent popular conception in the United States, that one finds himself at a loss to understand upon what the reports are based which have given rise to the erroneous notions held by the great majority even of the most intelligent people.

Current magazines which have not the excuse of the hurried preparation of matter for daily publication, but have ample time to verify their statements and give nothing but the truth, declare with the utmost positiveness that Mexico is an industrial, physical, political and financial ruin; that abandoned and desolate farms and haciendas are the rule and not the exception; that tillers of the soil are unable to pursue their vocations, even though anxious and willing to do so, because of the "fact" that the necessary draft animals have either all been killed or shipped out of the country; that practically no crops are being planted and that food is so scarce that the direst suffering prevails from starvation; that the greater portion of the mines have either been shut down or destroyed; that scenes of suffering, sickness, privation and even starvation are to be encountered on every hand; that the most deplorable conditions of every class are the rule throughout the entire Republic, and that unless outside aid be given without delay wholesale death must inevitably result. In fact, writers who apparently seek sensationalism rather than verity would appear to have selected Mexico as the unfortunate victim for the outpourings of their imaginations, based as they are upon nothing more than the flimsiest foundation of truth or incident. Instead of taking the trouble to investigate personally and determine for themselves the accuracy of the statements they give to the public, they accept the flimsiest rumors and reports and build up a Mexico that has little if any resemblance to the real one.

The facts as gleaned from observation and inquiry upon a journey from the border to the capital city, and after several days of sojourn there, are here related by one who has lived and traveled in Mexico for over ten years and therefore has the advantage of being able to compare present conditions with those of the pre-revolutionary as well as the revolutionary period. The journey by rail from Laredo to Mexico City was made with no other delay than that occasioned by locomotive troubles on steep grades, requiring in consequence a few more hours than in the old days of almost clock-like precision of operation, when the roads were in perfect condition and rolling stock was abundant. And inasmuch as several hours were lost in the journey from New York to San Antonio, over lines which boast of being the best in the world, in a period without storm or climatic disturbance of any kind, and through a country absolutely normal in every respect, small wonder was felt that the Mexican portion of the trip was slightly longer in duration than similar journeys previous to the Revolution.

And, by the way, while speaking of the railways mention should be made of the remarkable manner in which they are being rehabilitated with no other aid than the income derived from their operation. It was currently alleged that the damage caused by the Revolution would require at least fifty millions in gold to repair, that the greater portion of the rolling stock had been destroyed, and that a loan of a vast amount would be imperatively needed before anything like ordinary traffic conditions could be restored. Yet the managers of the National lines, or Constitutionalist Railroads as they have been renamed, have rebuilt tracks, bridges and stations, have repaired and purchased rolling stock and are still repairing and purchasing more as the income warrants, and have met all these heavy expenses with no other source of revenue than the ordinary business of the lines, hampered too as they have been by the necessity of operating military trains in large numbers and which yielded no revenue. In fact, the experience of the Government with the railway lines lends ample support to the often expressed belief of enthusiastic Mexicans who know the wonderful resources of their country, that if let alone Mexico will rehabilitate herself in every direction without outside assistance. The withdrawal of all the paper currency and the restoration of specie payments without the bond issue which was so freely prophesied would be essential is another instance in support of the belief of Mexico's recuperative powers.

The arable land in the northern portion of the Republic, confined to narrow limits at best, is all either under cultivation or being put into condition for production, and the bright green of the wheat fields can be seen in every direction. As the central portion of the plateau is reached and the fertile valleys of San Luis Potosi, Queretaro, Guanajuato, and other states are traversed, a scene of agricultural activity is observed on every hand. The fact that the crops of last season were the most abundant for twenty years is well known to those who really know anything about the country, and the appearance of the valleys which are traversed promises an even more abundant yield than in the season just ended.

The great piles of ore of various kinds at the numerous shipping points indicate that mining is active all along the route, while at several stations were seen quantities of guayule, that wonderful desert rubber growth, awaiting shipment to the factories and demonstrating that at least one long dormant industry was again under way.

The bands of cattle, horses, mules, goats, sheep, etc., seen on every hand along the route are proof positive that the statements of wholesale destruction of domestic animals during the Revolution were to say the least greatly exaggerated, unless indeed the thousands of sleek, fat animals seen from the car windows were naught but ghostly figures of the imagination, misleading the observer to fancy that what he had seen in the past was the actuality of today and with no other basis than that of a great portion of the sensational statements that are current regarding Mexico—the imagination of the writer. But if these were the ghosts of the animals of bygone days, they were certainly most substantial looking wraiths and appeared to be able to cultivate the fields in which many were employed quite as efficiently and extensively as their pre-revolutionary predecessors. Then too the prices of meat of all kinds in the markets of Mexico City (fully one-half less than the prices in Washington that prevail at this moment), would warrant the belief that there must at least be an unwitting misconception of the facts in this connection. On various occasions the writer had passed over this same route in time of peace, and if there is any diminution in the number of domestic animals the view from the car windows at all events does not disclose it, but on the contrary is proof positive of the mistaken reports in this connection that are widespread throughout the United States.

It is perfectly true that at every station beggars are encountered—persistent ones, too. The fattest and most robust are the most persistent, and one will look in vain for emaciation or other evidences of suffering. In times of hardship it is the little ones who give the first evidences of hunger, and the chubby cheeks, dirty enough it is true, the plump hands and legs and bodies, the laughing faces of the children are a certain indication that there is at least no such thing as the wholesale suffering that has been depicted by those who have made no personal investigation. Rags and dirt there are and there always have been, as every former traveler in Mexico knows full well. Beggars also on every hand, just as there always were. Those who knew Mexico before the Revolution need no reminder of the throngs of mendicants that greeted the tourist at every turn, aroused his often misplaced sympathy, and lightened his pocket. But there is not one whit more of that, if even so much, as in the much vaunted days of the "prosperity" of the Diaz regime.

But in Mexico City the most prominent fact in this connection, and one which is most forcibly presented to the traveler who is returning after an extended absence (say of seven months, as was the writer), was the remarkably small number of beggars to be seen on the streets. Before the Revolution and during it as well, the writer was familiar enough with this phase of life in the capital city, and one of the first questions propounded after having passed a few days in

Ambassador Fletcher Received by Secretary of Foreign Relations Aguilar

AMBASSADOR FLETCHER

Upon his return from Querétaro, in February, General Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Relations, appointed the day of the 20th of that month for receiving Mr. Henry P. Fletcher, the recently appointed Ambassador of the United States in Mexico.

At 12 o'clock noon, Señores Manuel Amaya and Ricardo Gutierrez Bridat, First and Second Officers charged with the introduction of foreign diplomats, presented themselves in a Presidential carriage at the American Embassy, and announced to Mr. Fletcher that General Aguilar would have the pleasure of receiving him that afternoon.

Ambassador Fletcher reached the Department of Foreign Relations at 5:30 o'clock. A very agreeable interview ensued, and the courtesies of the occasion were most cordially exchanged.

Mr. Fletcher is pleased with Mexico and the Mexican people, and is a man eminently fitted to make friends and hold them. The United States is to be congratulated on his appointment to Mexico City.

FOREIGN MINISTER AGUILAR

the place was "What has become of all the beggars?" There are some, it is true, but not more than a fraction of the number encountered on every hand in the days of the greatest alleged national prosperity and in the time of the Revolution as well.

There was a time when Mexico had the unenviable reputation of being second in the list of beggar infested metropolises in all the world. No longer is this true. Observation and inquiry show that industries of all kinds have been resumed or are in a fair way to be within a brief period in all portions of the Republic, and unwillingly idle people of either sex are a scarcity.

One of the most notable changes that the past half year has brought to Mexico has been the resumption of the use of specie in commercial transactions. There is in fact no paper currency of any kind in circulation. Even the bank bills, once worth their face value in specie, have dropped out of circulation, one of the contributing causes for their discredit having been the action of the banks themselves in refusing to accept their own notes at their face value as required by the law which gave them their existence, and also in refusing to redeem them upon demand—another rigid legal requirement. As a result, only gold, silver and copper are in circulation, and as the mint is turning out new coinage at the rate of three-quarters of a million daily, the temporary stringency of the brief transition period between paper and specie is rapidly disappearing. Many business people have found it difficult to accommodate themselves to the change. They had become so accustomed to the exorbitant rates of the paper period that they are not willing to return to the former scales of prices and with no reason whatever continue to demand prices that are exorbitant. Many openly declare that they lost so much during the period of unrest that they are bound to make it up as quickly as possible, and are doing so to the best of their ability, apparently seeking to recoup in a few months the losses of as many years. This condition must, however, adjust itself in time, indeed it is doing so now, and the return to former pre-revolutionary scales of prices must necessarily be a question of only a comparatively brief priod.

The comparative ease and quickness with which specie payments were resumed is one of the phenomena of the revolution, and at the same time a very potent and distinct proof of the ability of the country to rehabilitate its own finances.

The great preponderant sentiment in Mexico today is this:

LET US ALONE!! Do not seek to engraft ideas and methods upon us that are foreign to our natures and to our beliefs. Do not seek to "make over" the Mexican people on lines which may or may not be better than those of long existence. If let alone we can work out our own salvation. Friendship we appreciate and welcome. Meddling is not appreciated and therefore not wanted.

And by letting alone, they mean not only the physical non-interference or meddling, but a cessation of the false accusations that are constantly being brought against this country for no other apparent reason than that of stirring up ill feeling and trouble between the two neighboring nations.

No one recognizes more fully than the intelligent Mexican that the welfare of his own country is bound up indissolubly with the welfare of the other countries on the same continent. No one recognizes more fully than he that any alliance or coalition with any foreign country against the United States means practically national suicide. Mexicans are by no means the shortsighted people that many who do not know them have fancied. On the contrary, they recognize to the fullest the necessity for all the nations of the western hemisphere to combine for protection against the aggression of any outside power or powers, and this is one of the reasons why they are puzzled to account for the misconstruction placed by so many Americans upon the attitude of Mexico toward the European conflict—a misconception which is not warranted by any act of Mexico when fairly considered and understood.

A WOMAN IN NEW CONGRESS

A young woman, fair and talented, has been elected as a delegate to the National Congress of Mexico. A citizen of that wonderfully progressive State, Yucatan, she will represent the Fifth Electoral District of the Federal District, as in Mexico, a delegate may be elected from a State other than the one in which he (in this instance she) maintains citizenship.

The new delegate-elect is Señorita Hermila Galindo. She is publisher of *The Modern Woman*, Mexico City. She is a brilliant orator, and has been over the Republic, speaking everywhere for Woman and for the Revolution. In Cuba she is well known as an earnest advocate of woman's freedom, as she has made some wonderful speeches there. All her efforts and all her talents are devoted to the freer future of the women of all the Latin-American countries. Her campaign has been a most brilliant one. Respected and admired by her countrymen, the honor she has won is a merited honor, and her presence in the Congress will be a new element of national co-operation toward the great future of the Republic under its new Constitutional Government.

BANKING DECREE IN FORCE

Institutions Which Have Not Complied With the Law Are to Be Liquidated by the Authorities

On the 14th of December the First Chief issued the following decree regarding banks, establishing the manner in which they are to be conducted in future, and particularly regarding the banks of issue, which have so far failed to comply with the laws of long standing governing such matters.

Whereas, First, By the decree of September 15, 1916, regarding banking institutions, the privileges of the same for the issue of bills, process of collections and exemptions from taxation, have ceased.

Second.—That in the same decree it is ordered that the banks that have not increased their supplies of coin up to equal the amount of their notes and deposits, should be placed in liquidation, and that those which have made such increase shall maintain their character in common transactions and subject to the general laws of the country.

Third.—That by reason of the provisions of the above law, bank-notes shall not maintain their original character of currency and must be withdrawn by the institution which issues them.

Fourth.—That as there has been no increase in the metallic funds, therefore the Advisory Board shall proceed to the corresponding liquidation on the terms established by the decree of September 15th, and in accordance with the special requirements of the present economical situation; therefore, in view of the foregoing, I have decided to issue the following decree:

Article 1.—The banks of issue that have not increased their reserves to an amount equal to the amount issued in bank notes, shall be declared in liquidation in accordance with the decree of September 15th, of the present year.

Article 2.—The Advisory Board appointed in accordance with the decree of September 15, 1916, shall proceed to liquidate the assets and liabilities of the corresponding institutions, subject to the provisions of the said decree.

Article 3.—The Advisory Board shall call upon all the creditors and debtors of each bank to present their vouchers and the liquidations of their corresponding accounts, and shall send to the Secretary of the Treasury a report of the statement and conditions of the assets and liabilities, stating the amount and nature of the metallic reserves, of the values of the securities, and of the amount of the bills in circulation, as well as the classification of the said securities in regard to the greater or less facility of their collection.

Article 4.—For the present only the active credits of the banks shall be liquidated with bank notes and checks of the respective banks which shall be tendered by the debtors of the bank in payment of its obligations with the full value that the said documents should represent.

Article 5.—If from the report tendered by the Advisory Board it shall be found that the bank is not in a position to pay its liabilities with the securities in its assets, then the Secretary of the Treasury shall order its judicial liquidation in accordance with the decree of September 15th already quoted.

In witness whereof, I order these presents to be printed, published and circulated.

V. CARRANZA.

Queretaro, December 14, 1916.

Article 4 of the above decree can perhaps be better understood when it is known that the banks of emission have persistently refused to accept their own bills for obligations due them except at a discount of fifty per cent and even more from their face value—this in direct contravention of the national banking law. They have also refused to redeem them on demand, although the law is explicit and provides for prompt suspension in case of such refusal.—*Editor,* REVIEW.

REDEEMING BANK NOTES

The national banking law of 1897, which is in full force and effect so far as the issue and redemption of notes is concerned, is as follows:

"Bank notes are not legal tender, but circulate only by voluntary acceptance on the part of the public. They are required to bear on their face the promise to pay the bearer in cash the amount of the face value of the note. Notes must be redeemed at the head office of the bank or its branches, but the branches are under legal obligations to redeem only the notes which they have issued. *The failure of a bank to redeem one of its notes gives to the bearer the right of summary action against the institution, after summons to pay has been formulated by a notary.*"

None of the banks of issue has for several years complied with this provision, though repeatedly urged to do so. The Government has been exceedingly lenient in this respect, though frequently asked by holders of notes to require observance of the plain provision. Not only have the banks refused to redeem their own notes, but they have refused to accept them except at a discount of fifty per cent and even more from their face value, and the value that was realized by them when issued. The foregoing are among the reasons for the present action in govermental liquidation of the institutions that refuse compliance with the law.

MEXICAN CO-OPERATION SOCIETY

Announcement was recently made from the Educational Building, at 70 Fifth Avenue, New York, that seventy-five college presidents and others active in public education in this country have organized a Mexican Cooperation Society for the purpose of promoting education, mutual understanding and cooperative action between the peoples of Mexico and the United States.

In explaining the Society's program, Paul Kennaday, the Executice Secretary, said that the dominating idea which the Society would always try to keep to the front was that of cooperation. "We are going to try to prevent the Mexicans from believing that they are 'to be done good' by us, and just as clearly we are not going to be meddlesome and officious. Nor is all the educating going to be confined to Mexico. We in this country need some of that, and this Society proposes to serve as a medium through which the truth about Mexico and the Mexicans may be presented so that current prejudices and misconceptions may be broken down. We have much to learn from the people in Mexico, as they have much to learn from us."

TEHUANTEPEC QUIET

According to official reports sent to Mexico City from General Luis Gutierrez, who has been for some time in charge of military operations on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, that region is now tranquil and normal conditions have been restored. Beginning last August, an active campaign was inaugurated against various bands of marauders, with the result that they have been practically exterminated or driven out of the country.

A band under Felix Diaz, or claiming adhesion to him, was pursued into the remote fastnesses of the Santa Maria Chimalpa mountains, where they suffered great hardship from hunger and were finally completely dispersed. Many surrendered and were given amnesty, while the leader with a few adherents fled to Guatemala and is now reported to be confined in a hospital in that country.

Trains between Puerto Mexico and Salina Cruz are running regularly and without obstruction or delay.

The municipal elections were held in all centers of population with complete order, a large vote being polled and the successful candidates taking office without opposition.

"ARTICLE 33"

There has been so much misunderstanding regarding the expulsion of "pernicious foreigners" from Mexico, under Article 33 of the National Constitution, that the provisions of the old and the new Constitution are herewith given:

CONSTITUTION OF 1857.

"Article 33. Those not possessing the qualifications determined in Article 30 are foreigners. They have the right to the guarantees stipulated in Section 1, Title 1, of the present constitution, save that in all cases the Government has the power to expel the pernicious foreigner. They are under obligation to contribute to the public expenses, in the manner directed by law, and to obey and respect the institutions, laws and authorities of the country, and to submit to the decisions and sentences of the tribunals, without power of resorting to other recourse than the laws concede to Mexicans."

CONSTITUTION OF 1917.

"Article 33. Those not possessing the qualifications determined in Article 30 are foreigners. They have the right to the guarantees stipulated in Section 1, Title 1, of the present constitution, but the Executive of the Union has the exclusive power to expel from the national territory, immediately and without the necessity of previous trial, all foreigners whose sojourn is judged unsuitable. Foreigners have no power in any manner to interfere in the political affairs of the country."

The United States Supreme Court has declared:

"The right to exclude or expel aliens, or any class of aliens, absolutely or upon certain conditions, in war or in peace, (is) an inherent and inalienable right of every sovereign and independent nation, essential to its safety, its independence and its welfare."

Fong Yue Ting vs. U. S., 149 U. S. 698, 711.

LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Terms Under Which Local and Foreign Concerns May Conduct Their Business—National Gold the Basis

After careful study the First Chief has approved the newly made law regulating the operation of all insurance companies, foreign as well as native, to which all must conform their operations in the future. This law is as follows:

Whereas, The preservation of the insurance companies is of great social importance, and their existence is based on calculations which must have for a basis the fixedness of the money in which they are contracted; and on the other hand, as it is indispensable to furnish to the insured the necessary means to guarantee the rights that they have acquired, therefore, I have decreed the following:

Article 1.—Life and Personal Accident Insurance Companies, Fire Insurance Companies, and those Companies insuring against risks to real and personal property, at the present time established in the Republic, as also the branches of foreign companies located in the same, are hereby subject to the basis of national gold in all their operations pertaining to the payment of premiums, loans, cash surrender values, dividends, death claims, endowments matured, in accordance with the rules established by the following articles:

Article 2.—Contracts under policies already issued which may be in force on the date of this law and in which appears the clause that the obligations under them must be on the basis of national gold, shall be fulfilled according to their terms; consequently the unpaid premiums and those becoming due hereafter, shall be paid in such coin; as also on the part of the Companies, all their obligations thereunder.

Article 3.—When, with reference to the above mentioned policies, the insured have made any payments of premiums in paper money, those payments shall be subjected to a liquidation, changing into national gold the amount paid in paper money according to the following table

	1913	1914	1915	1916
January	par	74c	28c	9c
February	par	69c	26c	8c
March	par	63c	22c	5c
April	par	58c	18c	7c
May	par	66c	17c	20c
June	par	65c	17c	12c
July	90c	62c	10c	10c
August	79c	53c	13c	7c
September	73c	40c	13c	5c
October	72c	40c	14c	3c
November	71c	39c	14c	1½c
December	71c	37c	12c	—

The balance of the difference between the premiums paid in paper money and that of gold shall be charged to the insured, these differences, as long as they are not paid, to be considered as a debt against the policy, without, in any case, such debt constituting an obstacle to the continuance of the insurance. In the case of death occurring before the balance is paid, the indebtedness shall be deducted from the amount payable under the policy.

Article 4.—For the settlement of the difference between the premiums paid in paper money and the premiums in national gold, the insured, within sixty days, counting from the date of this decree, must select one of the following options, giving the Company notice thereof in writing.

Option I.—To make the payment mentioned in national gold within sixty days from the date of the expiration of the time granted to the insured for choosing the method of paying the balance of the premiums. There may be applied to such payment any dividends and other blances which may be in possession of the Company to the credit of the insured, and to which he may be entitled according to his contract; in which case only the amount necessary to complete the liquidation is to be paid in national gold.

Option II.—In case the insured has, according to his contract, the right to obtain loans from the Company, an amount sufficient to pay the balance may be considered as a loan, provided it does not exceed the maximum loan value according to contract. If said maximum be less than the amount of the balance due the difference shall be paid in national gold within the time limit established by the previous section. The repayment to the Company of the amount loaned shall be made at the time and under the terms designated by the contract for said operations.

Option III.—That a proportionate reduction of the insurance term be made in case of extended insurance, or in cases of paid-up insurance, a relative reduction be made in amount of the policies.

Article 5.—If at the expiration of sixty days counting from the date of this decree, the insured has not chosen any of the methods established, the liquidation shall be carried out according to the regulations established by Option III of Article 4.

Article 6.—The policies issued which are in force and in the contract of which there is no mention of the express stipulation of silver or national gold, for which reason contracting parties have invariably used for their operations different classes of money, shall, beginning with the date of this decree be reduced to national gold, the conversion to be made in accordance with the table inserted in Article 3, except that the insured, in order to keep his policy at its original face value, may choose to pay the difference, in which case he must give notice to the Company in writing, within sixty days, and pay the difference within the sixty additional days.

Article 7.—All debts which the insured may have pending with the companies in accordance with their contracts shall be liquidated by converting the paper values into national gold, subject to the table of equivalents inserted in Article 3.

Article 8.—At the expiration of the two periods of sixty days referred to by Articles 4 and 6, the companies within a further period of sixty days, shall complete all necessary liquidations so that, at the expiration of this new period, they may begin to make, in national gold, all payments by reason of death claims, endowments matured, dividends, etc., to which they are obligated.

Article 9.—During the three periods of sixty days each referred to in the present decree, the insured cannot withdraw from the companies any balances to which they may be entitled, but must proceed concerning such balances only on the terms indicated in Option I of Article 4.

TRANSITORY RULES.

Article 1.—All previous dispositions contrary to the provisions stated in this decree are hereby derogated.

Article 2.—In case that the parties interested should prefer the administration channels to the judicial channels for the solving of any point which they may consider doubtful in the application of this decree, they can, by mutual agreement, have recourse in writing to the Treasury Department and the latter will decide the controversy through its respective bureau. Therefore, I command that this decree be printed, published, circulated and properly complied with.

REQUESTED TO REOPEN THEIR OFFICES.

The following circular has recently been issued by the Secretary of the Treasury:

Whereas, The insurance companies established in the Republic or that have branch offices or agencies with authorization of the Government, should return to their normal working; and whereas, the decree of the 15th inst. concerning the said insurance companies is in force, this Secretaryship, by order of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in Charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, has been pleased to order the following:

First.—The insurance companies doing business in the Republic when rendering their reports concerning their business in general, shall adhere themselves precisely to the basis of national gold, fixing in such manner the amount of each policy of those that should be included in said report.

Second.—For the statements of premiums the companies shall adhere in the future to the blank accompanied by the circular of June 27th, of this year. In the said statement the separation of the national gold values and the values in paper currency for the payment of the corresponding tax shall be made in like manner, as in the previous semester.

Third.—The foreign insurance companies shall be requested, through the representatives that they may have in the Republic, to proceed to reopen their offices as soon as possible and in accordance with the laws applicable within the Republic, so that the respective interests of the insured shall suffer no delay and the settlement of the business pending between the insured and the companies shall be more quickly and easily made. The attention of the said representatives shall be called to the losses that the lack of offices in the Republic is causing and the illegality of having the insured compelled to attend to their business outside of the territory of the Republic, especially at present, when in accordance with the decree of the 15th inst., the insurance companies may proceed normally in all their business.

Mexico, December 31, 1916.

By order of the Assistant Secretary, The Chief Clerk.

A. MADRAZO.

CHILD LABOR IN THE UNITED STATES

The annual report of the National Child Labor Committee of the United States cites the following facts: "Twenty-eight States allow children to work more than eight hours a day in stores and other local establishments; 19 States allow children to work at night in such industries; 28 States have no regulation of street work by children, and 20 States have poor regulation of it; 23 States need night messenger laws; 26 do not require medical examination of children for work permits, and 32 States have standards lower than the fifth grade." THE REVIEW has already quoted the laws of several states in the Mexican Republic governing child labor and will at an opportune time collate all the legal regulations in this respect. It will be conceded that the people of that country may be pardoned for taking pride in this outgrowth of the Revolution, as well as in many others.

CAUSE FOR CONGRATULATION

Amid the mass of misrepresentation—some unwitting, some deliberate; amid the mass of misunderstanding—some excusable, some entirely the opposite; amid the mass of charge and counter-charge, in large part based upon inaccurate information, that has filled the press during the past half dozen troublous years in Mexico, it is distinctly refreshing to find on rare occasion some faint glimmering of reason, some approach to a correct understanding of the situation. Such occasion is found in an editorial in the *New York Sun,* dealing with the work of the Mexican-American Commission. That editorial in part says:

> "The great fact to which the American people must meanwhile accustom themselves is the presence in Mexico of a people with ideals, aims, purposes and ambitions profoundly different from ours. These national aspirations have not yet taken shape; it is impossible to lay the finger on a principle of government and say: 'Mexico wants this.' At present all Mexico knows is that she does not want anything the United States suggests. This is a deplorable situation and it is one which the Administration hardly recognizes. It suggests that the less we offer in the way of advice, the less we insist upon in matters of Mexican internal administration, the safer will be the relations between the two countries for some time to come. Perhaps the Administration will see this in time to avoid further embitterments.
>
> "If it be said that there is one thing and one thing only that we must insist upon, while tactfully leaving Mexico alone as much as possible, namely, safety of American lives and property in Mexico, the answer is that we come to such an insistence pretty late in the day. But the *Sun* does not believe that it is too late to take a simple, definite, firm stand on our one right, relinquishing the mistaken ideas of "serving Mexico" which have made Mexico hate us."

The fact that the people of Mexico have ideals, aims, purposes and ambitions profoundly different from those of the people of the United States is indeed a fact, and it is cause for congratulation that a newspaper of the standing of the *Sun* should have at last made this discovery and acknowledged this very obvious truth—obvious to those who have really studied the matter.

Other statements in the editorial are equally cause for congratulation, but THE REVIEW cannot refrain from expressing surprise that, in the face of what appears to be a remarkably adequate comprehension of the situation, the *Sun* should have made the grave mistake of declaring that "the national aspirations have not yet taken shape, and it is impossible to lay the finger on a principle of government and say: Mexico wants this."

If there had been no other expression than the work of the recent constitutional convention in Queretaro, surely there has been sufficient announcement during the revolutionary years of certain cardinal national aspirations of whose character there can be no manner of doubt.

Land reform is one of those aspirations, and it has taken very definite shape.

Abolition of special privilege is another aspiration, and it too, has assumed definiteness, more or less to the chagrin of those who in the past have profited from the immoral possession of privilege to despoil the common people for their own enrichment.

The entire and complete separation of Church and State is another aspiration which has taken practical shape.

The abolition of slavery and the protection of the rights of the common people is still another national aspiration upon which one can assuredly lay his finger, demonstrated as it is by the radical laws enacted and enforced in this direction—laws far more radical and far more beneficial to the down-trodden laborers than in most other countries.

Education of the common people is yet another aspiration upon which the intelligent finger can be laid without a particle of trouble, and which is evidenced by the thousands of new schools that have been established since the Revolution began.

Many other very definite and very distinct aspirations of the Mexicans might be cited, but THE REVIEW will content itself by merely calling attention to the most notable and expressing wonder that so well posted a newspaper as the *Sun* should make such an egregious mistake, while in the same breath manifesting so commendable a comprehension of the radical differences between the two nations, and of the needs and wishes of the two peoples.

AN ABORIGINES ASSOCIATION

The aborigines of the States of Mexico, Tlaxcala, Puebla and Morelos have organized an association under the name of the United Society of the Indigenous Races, and already have half a million members enrolled, according to the Mexico City *Universal.* Colonel Miguel de la Trinidad Regalado, himself an Indian, has been chosen President by a convention recently held in the capital city, at which were present two hundred and fifty delegates, representing the half million members.

This association has been in process of formation for the past five years and has grown steadily until it has attained its present encouraging proportions. The leading object of the organization is the acquirement by each member of a small tract of land, upon which he may labor for the support of his family. This means to him all that is best in life, giving him, in addition to a comfortable subsistence, an opportunity for education and for association with his fellows for the uplifting of the entire body of aborigines. The establishment of schools in even the smallest and most remote hamlet is one of the prime objects of the organization, and its efforts in this and all other directions are being ably seconded by the authorities. They have pledged their firm support to the Government that has made possible the advancement already noted and are enthusiastic in their allegiance to the Constitutionalist leaders.

A new wharf and a custom house are to be erected at the port of Acapulco under instructions from the Department of Communications and Public Works.

A MEXICAN BUILDING IN WASHINGTON

A project has been advanced by the *Revista Nacional* of New York City, edited by Sr. Jorge U. Orozco, prominent among the young men who are doing so much to bring their country to the front and give its people their rights, for the purpose of aiding to establish more friendly relations, commercially and otherwise, between the United States and Mexico. The ties which most strongly bind individuals, societies and peoples are the interest of mutual gain derived from mercantile transactions. Anything which can aid in this direction, and also to bring about a better understanding between the two countries, and remove the widespread misunderstandings that so lamentably exist, is therefore worthy of support and encouragement. The immediate project advanced by the *Revista Nacional* is the establishment in the city of Washington, D. C., of a building owned by the Mexican Nation and devoted to a permanent exhibition of all Mexican products, natural as well as industrial, provided with the necessary documents and abundant data relating to statistical and climatological matters, fluvial and overland communications, wages, and all kinds of information that may lead to the knowledge of the present state of advancement and the unlimited resources the country possesses, and which if developed would open a vast field of prosperity.

A special department corresponding to each and every one of the States and Territories of the Republic would be assigned, to give a correct idea of the various zones of production. Such departments would be provided with samples of all its products, as well as data pertaining to same. Within the same building a hall would be reserved for the use of American manufacturers, industrials and producers, where they could exhibit their goods in all branches of commercial and scientific activities, with the object that the Mexican visitors could take advantage of the latest improvements to establish them in Mexico, and also to bring them together in a direct manner.

A building owned by the United States should be erected in the capital of the Mexican Republic with identical ends, in order to establish a current of reciprocity which would bring as immediate consequence a greater understanding and closer friendly intimacy between the two countries.

THE REVIEW is of the opinion that a project of this kind would be productive of a vast amount of good not only commercially but educationally. The average American knows little of fact regarding the closest neighbor of his country, and is imbued with misinformation, and at times prejudice, to a most astonishing degree. Anything that can aid in removing this prejudice and this misinformation should be encouraged, and the project of the *Revista* should be supported by all who have the true welfare of Mexico at heart.

CONVENTION OF RAILROAD EMPLOYEES

Officers of the Congress of Railroad Employees, Grouped in Front of the Juarez Memorial Monument.

Once upon a time the railroad employees of Mexico sought to obtain redress for their grievances at the hands of the Diaz regime. A delegation of the men waited upon President Diaz and presented their modest wishes. He curtly called their attention to the severe and bloody measures he had pursued in suppressing labor disturbances theretofore, and ominously advised them to return to their homes and their occupations—which they lost no time in doing.

In marked contrast to that attempt is the notable gathering recently held in Mexico City. At the request of the managers of the National Railway lines, the employees throughout the Republic selected delegates to a convention whose object was the discussion and settlement of the various questions affecting their employment—wages, hours of labor, indemnification, classification, etc.

The opening session of the Convention—the first of its kind the world of labor has ever known—took place on February 10, 1917. First Chief Carranza was not at the time in the city, but at its fourth session, February 13th, he sent a telegram to the Convention, in which he said: "It is my desire that the labors of the Workingmen's Convention being held at the Capital may be of beneficial result to all those you represent. I salute you affectionately. V. Carranza."

Great demonstrations of satisfaction followed the reading of this telegram. It was greeted with prolonged hurrahs.

The method of procedure in the Convention was for each trade to discuss the questions to be considered, with the representatives of the railroads, in sessions of sub-committees during the hours of the morning each day, and to present the result of such discussions to the Convention in the afternoon for debate and action. The final decision of the Convention was then passed on to the managers of the railroads for sanction.

Salaries and hours of labor were, naturally, subjects of most serious discussion and much heated debate; but the Convention, which remained in session for several weeks, covered the entire field, extending from the organization of shops to the establishment of technical training schools, co-operative purchase, and distribution of supplies, etc.

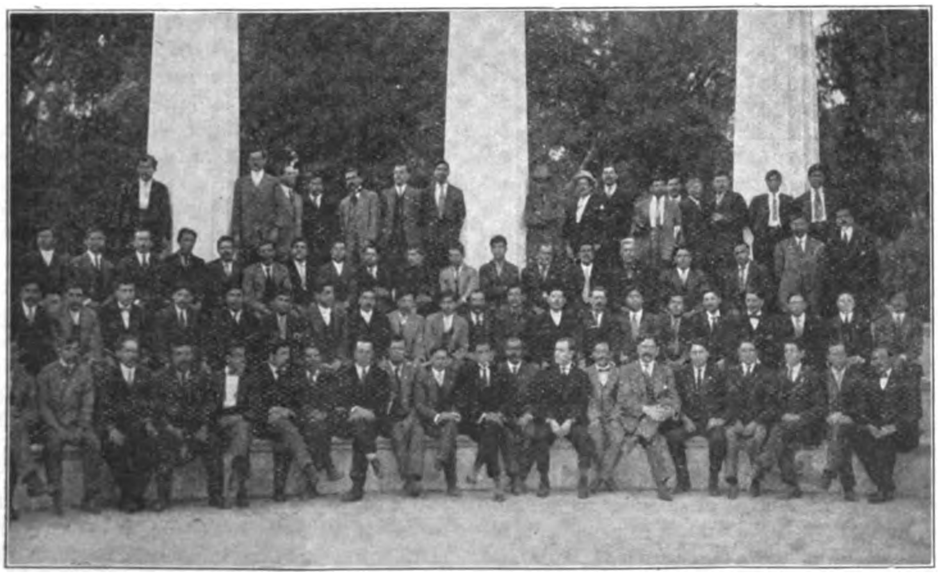
The Convention, which marked so important a step in advance for laboring men, not only in Mexico, but throughout the world, had the hearty encouragement and countenance of the authorities. That the men recognized the great opportunities before them was especially evidenced by a great organized demonstration in honor of the President-elect on his return to Mexico City. Over three thousand persons gathered at the semicircle Juárez, of the Alameda, to join with the railroad men in this imposing demonstration. The delegates of the Great Railroad Convention presided over the affair. The workmen of the aviation factories were there, as were the men from the National Factory of Arms and Ammunition, the General Armory, the factories of "La Colmena," and others devoted to divers activities. There were bands of music, standards with appropriate emblems and inscriptions of sympathy, and a grand parade.

After the march, the parade came to a stand before the National Palace, and a commission composed of Señores Antonio Valdés, President of the Great Railroad Convention; Alfonso Escamilla, its Secretary; Edmundo Valdés, Crescencio Colmenero, Filiberto Pérez, Manuel Zúniga, Galaor Gratecat, and others approached the First Magistrate of the Republic, to express to him the greetings and appreciation of the Convention.

Señor Valdés, speaking for the delegates of the Railroad Convention, said they had invited other trades of workingmen for a demonstration of admiration, affection and sympathy for the most noble, sincere and enthusiastic defender of the oppressed classes, their new President-elect. "Your Excellency knows," he continued, "that the railroad men have been incorporated with the Constitutionalist Army, and that we have followed the Government during the great struggle up to the present victory." He stated that because they had seen in the First Commander the disinterestedness of the statesman and the energy of the man of action, they desired to express to him their gratitude before concluding the Convention which had been called by the directorate of the railroads through the initiative of the First Chief, to close the conflict between capital and labor and establish the rights and duties of the management of the roads and of the workingmen. "Sir," said the orator, "you have dignified our position and our calling, and have provided us with a new path, so that we may see realized our longings and our aspirations, and for this reason we shall ever live in gratitude toward Your Excellency."

The President-elect responded to the words of the speaker, saying that he was happy that the management and the workingmen of the railroads had reached a definite understanding, and had already commenced their labors in accordance with the new basis.

(Concluded on page 9)



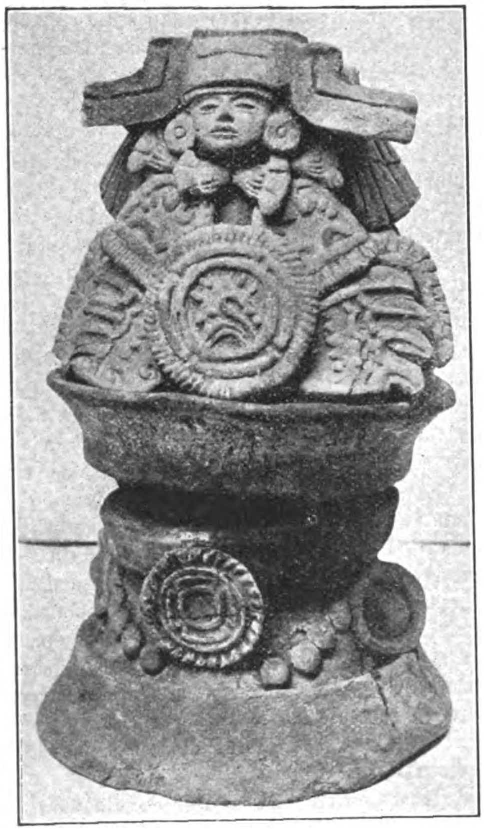
Members of the Congress of Railroad Employees, Recently Held in Mexico City for the Purpose of Settling Questions of Hours, Wages, Etc.

FOOTPRINTS OF LOST TRIBES

Races That Once Inhabited the Valleys of Mexico—Interesting Speculation as to Their Origin and Fate

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

There has been much speculation ever since the discovery of the Western Hemisphere regarding the probable location of the first habitation of the human race thereon. While some very ancient pre-historic remains are found on both the North and the South American continents, and there is more or less difference of opinion as to which belongs the honor of having first afforded a home to human beings, there seems to be good reason to believe that to the Valley of Mexico and the immediately contiguous portions of this country should be ascribed the credit of having been the home of the tribes which first penetrated this continent from some unknown source, lived here for centuries, and then suddenly perished, leaving behind them for discovery thousands of years later certain imperishable remains that are being unearthed from day to day from their tomb of ages and presented to the world of the twentieth century for conjecture, study and enlightenment.



Macuilxochitl, the God of Flowers, an Incense Burner of Terra Cotta 16 Inches High; Found by Prof. William Niven Near Atzcapotzalco, in the Valley of Mexico.

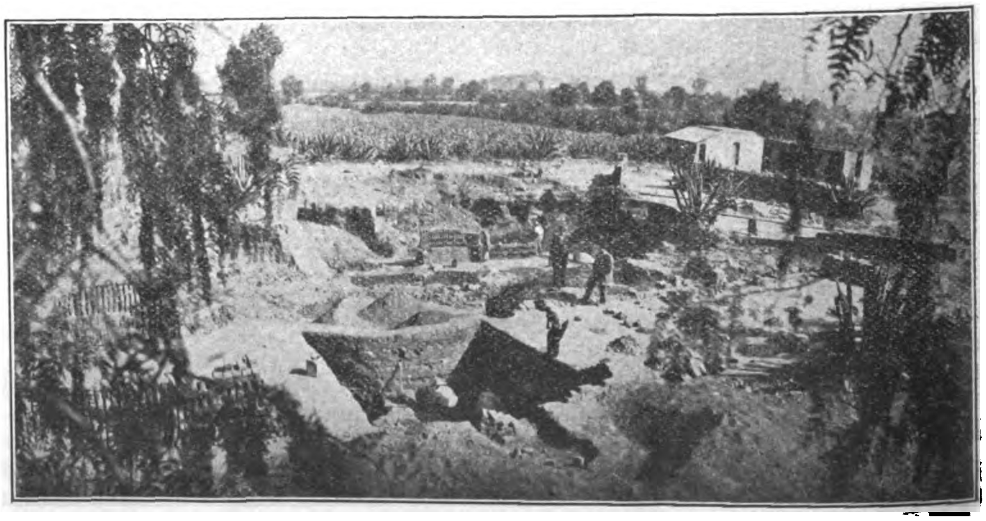
It is scarcely venturing too far to say that no portion of the globe offers so fertile a field to the archaeologist and student as this. While in the old world the imperishable traces of long extinct races are found in abundance, the history of most of those races is well known, and these relics of stone and metal, the carved inscriptions and printed tablets, serve but to verify the written or traditional records. Here, however, all is different. The races whose remains are unearthed in this country from day to day perished from off the face of the earth how many thousands of years in the past only conjecture based on the stories written by ashes, gravel, sand and earth, stone and terra cotta, can determine—and that with no great degree of accuracy. Of anything approaching written or engraved records of these ancients there is nothing. Of tradition even there is little, except in regard to the races which have inhabited this region within the past ten or a dozen centuries. These facts make the study of these pre-historic races all the more interesting and absorbing, and small wonder is it that some should devote many of their best years to this most fascinating avocation.

Prominent, foremost it might well be said, among those who have devoted many years of ardent study to this absorbing problem, is Prof. William Niven, who has passed the greater portion of his life in Mexico, and has for an average generation's lifetime spared neither pains, labor nor time in delving, both physically and mentally, into the records of the past, buried for more centuries than the average mind can grasp, beneath the accumulations of time and the debris of fire, flood and storm whose record is plain and uncontradictable to those who can read it. Every hour that this enthusiast—and he is a veritable one—can spare, he devotes to this pursuit. Equipped with pick and shovel, he plunges bodily into the dust and ashes of forgotten ages and races, and no gold hunter ever followed a bit of "float" toward its source more eagerly and more enthusiastically than he pursues the trail indicated by a fragment of pottery, a bit of carved stone, or other object bearing the impress of human handiwork. With chosen Indians to aid him in the crudest of the work of removing the superincumbent earth and gravel, no sooner is a layer struck that shows signs of human habitation, than he takes charge of the operations and carefully excavates wherever there are indications of treasure trove, extracting each object encountered as carefully as if it were some living organism necessitating the most tender care in order to preserve it from destruction.

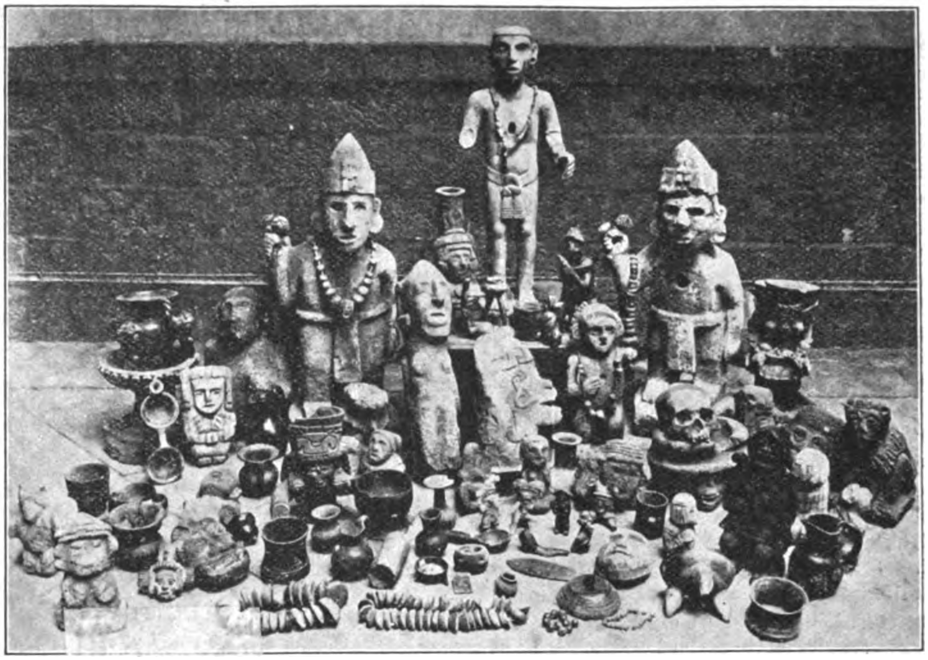
Devoting as he has so many years to this study, noting carefully each fact as it is brought to light by the excavators or by himself, comparing the remains of the different races that have succeeded each other in this cradle of the human race, so far as the Western Hemisphere is concerned, whatever Professor Niven has to say in connection therewith carries with it the weight of authority and reliability.

It is his opinion—and he can cite facts by the score to substantiate it—that there have been three great eras or periods of human occupation of this region, and that each met its end through natural causes—by fire or volcanic eruption, by water or flood, and by storm, hurricanes and tempest. Accompany him to any of the many scenes of his labors and he will point out to you the finger prints of Nature, infallible as the finger prints utilized by the modern investigator, which have written this history in unmistakable and indestructible characters.

The volume whose pages have been opened by Professor Niven is a ponderous one. It is anywhere from twelve to sixty feet or more in thickness and the individual leaves are of corresponding dimensions. The first or earliest pages in this unwritten history are found at a depth of four to twenty yards and even more from the present surface. In this page, which bears unmistakable evidence of its artificial character, being made up of kitchen debris, etc., are found many artifacts of a crude but intensely interesting nature, illustrating as they do the first attempts at human handiwork in stone and clay. Among these relics of the forgotten race that trod this valley tens of thousands of years in the past, are many of unmistakably Chinese origin, as seen by the illustrations herewith. The human faces depicted are now generally conceded by students of archaeology to have been portraits of the persons represented, and which were kept about the houses of these for-



San Miguel Amantla.



[illegible] PREHISTORIC OBJECTS FROM MEXICO'S BURIED CITIES.

This [illegible] pecially for The Mexican Review by C. B. Waite, of Mexico City, shows a recent [illegible] m Niven in the buried cities in the Valley of Mexico. The dark figure in the [illegible] er, it will be noted, has abundant dental development that has led some facetiou[illegible] t "Teddy the Frst." The large, crude figure in the center with a pointed skull, b[illegible] ance to the massive stone figures found on Easter Island in the South Pacific.

gotten ancients much as photographs are preserved today, or buried with their originals when death overtook them. These terra cotta portraits are usually not more than a couple of inches in diameter and are of a wide range of type, showing characteristics of races from all portions of the world.

Others of the artifacts found in these first pages of Nature's record are of an Egyptian or Oriental cast, and from what he has gathered Professor Niven is of the opinion that the first and earliest races inhabiting this valley were of two distinct origins, living here side by side and intermingling—Chinese and Egyptians. To the race of the presumably latter origin he has given the name Atlantas, both because of its appropriateness and because this is a good Nahuatl word in use in this connection. The marked resemblance of many of the figures and decorations used by this prehistoric people to those found in Egypt and western Asia lends strong color to the existence of the traditional lost continent Atlantis, or to some direct connection between what now constitutes the western hemisphere and the eastern. Some of the basso-relievo inscriptions found in the ruins to the south of this valley bear such a resemblance to those of Egypt and Babylon as to be actually startling, and suggestive of a common origin.

As to the presence of Chinese in this country many thousands of years ago there is no doubt in the minds of investigators. The artifacts or images with Chinese characteristics are so common as to admit of no doubt in this connection. Ancient Chinese characters too have been found carved or impressed upon prehistoric objects resurrected from beneath the buried cities of San Juan Teotihuacan, adjacent to the valley of Mexico, while as Professor Carl Lumholtz, the noted traveler and investigator, has shown, in his intensely interesting work "Unknown Mexico," some of the aboriginal tribes of the remote Sierra Madre have a most remarkable vocabulary of Chinese words or their very evident corruptions and carrying the same meaning with them as with their manifest originators.

But whatever the origin of the two distinct races that peopled the valley so long ago, there appears to be little doubt as to their fate. A layer of volcanic ashes and pumice as much as 36 inches in thickness overlies the human remains, telling the story of a cataclysm of Nature in unmistakable fashion. In this deposit human remains are found showing how the unfortunate victims met their fate, much after the fashion of the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompeii.

Above this layer of volcanic origin is another of earth formed by the slow and gradual accretion of soil created by decaying vegetation, and above this is what may be called the second page of Nature's history of the habitation of this valley. This layer contains many artifacts of stone and terra cotta, all of a higher grade of workmanship than the primary one and evidencing a more advanced stage of civilization, if their progress ma[illegible] undant indications are foun[illegible] hat the race whose prehistor[illegible] thus demonstrated perished by flood, gravel and sand showing the action of water being abundant between that and the topmost layer. For lack of any distinctive name, the race responsible for these remains is known merely as Pre-Aztec.

The next page in Nature's history is the Aztec, and the layer containing these artifacts is overlaid by deposits showing the action of hurricanes and windstorms, bringing about the destruction of the people whose homes were thus buried from sight.

Thus are evidenced the three periods of Mexican mythology—Fire, Water and Wind—and in the remains exhumed are found abundant specimens of the three respective gods of those elements.

Professor Niven, who as stated has made a study for many years not only of the buried ruins in the valley of Mexico but elsewhere in the Republic, notably in the State of Guerrero, where he has made some most remarkable discoveries of buried cities, is of the firm belief that the comparatively limited period of the existence of the human race on this globe as taught by many is by no means equal to what he believes Nature has written here. Scientists who have visited these localities for brief periods have expressed the opinion that the periods referred to are of comparatively recent origin and date back to no more than one thousand or fifteen hundred years. But a logical calculation can be and has been made from long study and observation which would seem to upset these very conservative statements. This country has been known to civilization for practically four hundred years—since the landing of Cortez in 1519, and in all that time the accretion of the surface from natural causes has not been visible to any extent. The historical cypress trees at Chapultepec beneath which Montezuma walked, and which even in his time were gray with age, are exactly in the same condition as they were when Cortez first saw them, and the surrounding surface shows practically the same condition as then. So too with the famous tree of the Noche Triste, and other well-known growths in this and other portions of the Republic by which the changes in the surface could be measured if they were of an appreciable extent. In all those four centuries the topography of the valley in this respect has undergone but slight change. Study of conditions in surrounding localities gives ground for the conclusion that at a conservative estimate the surface under normal conditions and where undisturbed cannot have been built up at a greater ratio than perhaps an inch and one-half in a century, if indeed this be not an overestimate. Six inches at the outside would cover what has been accomplished by Nature in four hundred years. On this basis, which must be conceded by any observer to be in excess of the actuality, something like 30,000 years must have elapsed since the destruction of the combined Atlantas-Chinese race which was overwhelmed by volcanic action as stated.

That this theory has good foundation is borne out by the wonderful buried ruins at San Juan Teotihuacan, some thirty miles southeast from this city and on the border of the Valley of Mexico. Here a cross section cut through an extensive mound by railway construction shows two ruined prehistoric cities, built of stone, one superimposed upon the other. The streets of the older city have stone pavements showing channels or grooves six inches or more in depth worn in the solid rock by the constant passage of barefoot or sandal-wearing people. This city, after existing for ages, must have been destroyed by human agency, as the walls of the houses are still standing in good condition, but the rooms and the intervening streets have all been filled level with the eaves with broken rock, manifestly deposited by human agency. No signs of the roofs remain in any instance. Over this buried city is a layer of earth of varying thickness—four to six feet—deposited by natural accretion, and on this layer another city of stone, has been built. This in turn, after ages of habitation, was destroyed, how is not apparent, the buildings filled level with the tops of the walls, and on this still another layer of earth several feet in thickness was gradually deposited by the passage of time. On the surface of this deposit there was originally, so the Spanish historians say, a heavy growth of trees and shrubbery at the time of the advent of Cortez and remained for a long period subsequent thereto. Without allowing for the ages during which these cities existed in their prime and were inhabited by long forgotten races before their final destruction, a period of several thousand years must have elapsed while the normal accretion of the earth was in progress between the two buried cities and over the latest one.

In the same locality are a series of pyramids covered with soil from natural accretion, and also at one time covered with a heavy tree growth. This has been removed, and in some places excavation has disclosed the existence of flights of solid stone steps running from the surface of the ground to the apex of the structure. By accident it was discovered some time ago that these stone steps, deeply worn as they were by the countless thousands who must have ascended them, were underlaid by still another and far more ancient series, also of solid stone, which had been worn completely out in the flight of time, making the substitution of others necessary, and this had been done by simply laying new slabs of stone over the old ones, the latter only being accidentally disclosed by the removal of the earth which covered the sides of the structure.

When one attempts to estimate the time that must have elapsed between the placing of the first solid stone steps in position, their wearing out by the passage of thousands perhaps millions of feet, their being covered by another layer of stone, and it in turn being worn to its present state, one becomes bewildered. The mind refuses to grasp the unavoidable conclusion in this direction, just as it refuses to grasp the conclusions based upon unmistakable evidences of the lapse of tens of thousands of years since the first human foot trod this valley down to the time when the imperishable evidences of the existence of that long forgotten race were first unearthed here. Every pre-conceived and pretaught idea as to the age of the human race is negatived by the evidence written by Nature in the vast mounds of buried ruins in the Valley of Mexico.

MEXICO'S TRADE GROWING

Interesting Figures Demonstrating the Rapid Return of Normal Conditions

From the figures compiled by the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce of the United States Department of Commerce, it will be seen that the foreign trade of Mexico is in a remarkably healthy condition, showing as it does a constant increase. Notable among the facts gathered are the following:

Imports from Mexico to United States for eleven months ending November, 1916	$94,666,087
Ditto for 1915	77,382,112
Ditto for 1914	80,894,117
Exports United States to Mexico for eleven months ending November, 1916	48,358,278
Ditto for 1915	36,573,237
Ditto for 1914	30,850,965

MOST IMPORTANT IMPORTS FROM MEXICO FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER, 1915 AND NOVEMBER, 1916

	1915	1916
Cattle	$ 6,551,630	$ 2,104,280
Coffee	6,495,446	6,432,722
Copper (unmanufactured)	1,892,888	6,504,587
Copper (manufactured)	2,298,916	13,090,002
Hats	374,662	187,473
Hides (cattle)	7,[illegible]99,823	5,553,490
Goat Skins	[illegible]15,213	1,091,068
Rubber	612,712	1,027,528
Lead	3,138,761	1,722,102
Mahogany	458,069	511,343
Gold	6,809,089	6,691,995
Silver	19,050,275	14,407,209
Sisal	17,357,712	21,962,599
Oil	9,840,219	12,610,418

MOST IMPORTANT EXPORTS FROM UNITED STATES TO MEXICO FOR ELEVEN MONTHS ENDING NOVEMBER, 1915, AND NOVEMBER, 1916

	1915	1916
Breadstuffs	$2,190,826	$3,300,567
Wheat	191,503	53,329
Automobiles	102,402	532,186
Railway Cars	40,021	213,832
Coal	1,185,475	694,670
Cotton (unmanufactured)	1,773,420	302,396
Cotton (manufact'd cloth)	618,215	4,631,737
Tires for autos	133,463	203,020
Locomotives	85,800	367,565
Typewriters	23,220	132,827
Pipe Fittings (cast)	47,940	241,310
Pipe Fittings (wrought)	268,274	737,428
Rails	79,357	127,521
Structural iron and steel	66,825	239,294
Tin Plates	237,517	152,437
Boots and Shoes	994,874	1,679,851
Lard	572,047	1,259,425
Books, Music, etc.	80,270	511,534
News Print	121,112	199,341
Boards and Planks	501,609	914,918
Wearing Apparel	221,037	233,497

THE DRAGO DOCTRINE

Dr. Enrique Gil, member of a prominent Argentine law firm represented in New York, has written a pamphlet for the American Association for International Conciliation on "Pan-Americanism and the International Policy of Argentina" that tells the long-established Argentine policy opposing intervention. Of the Drago Doctrine, opposing intervention for collection of debt, he says:

> "The Drago doctrine, which may be said to be supplementary to the doctrine of Monroe, was formulated, as is well known, as the result of the coercive action exercised in 1902 by a number of European countries against Venezuela. The cardinal principle of the doctrine is that public debts give no right to armed intervention or to a material occupation of American territory by a European power."

And the generally accepted national policy opposing intervention on general principles he discusses thus:

> "Our great international jurist, Calvo, who claimed that the independence of the states, with all the corresponding rights, must be absolute, clearly laid down the points that usually constitute a ground for intervention; but, at the same time, he made it clear that intervention, for whatever reasons, either in the external or internal affairs of another country, was distinctly opposed to the spirit of the Argentine principle. Intervention may be diplomatic, pacific, armed, official or unofficial, and some publicists recognize armed intervention only as the true intervention in international law. Thus there is such a divergence of general view upon this subject that it becomes unnecessary to enter into it in detail in this review of Pan-Americanism."

And he quotes the Argentine-Peru treaty of 1874, which includes this statement:

> "As a consequence of the established principle of equality in virtue of which the citizens of each of the high contracting parties shall enjoy in the territory of the other the same rights as nationals . . . the damages caused by factions or by individuals, and in general by accidents of any nature whatsoever, shall not give rise to any right of special indemnity."

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEXICAN STUDENTS

The need of education in Mexico was considered from the point of view of constructive peace work, at a recent meeting of the peace committee of the Philadelphia yearly meeting of Friends. It was felt that permanent friendly relations between the United States and Mexico would be practically encouraged by having a number of well-prepared Mexican students aided in studying year by year at American colleges and universities by means of scholarships, so that hundreds of Mexico's ablest young men could look back on the United States as their educational home.

This has been proposed to Haverford College, Pennsylvania, and its managers, at their meeting in September, awarded one $400 or two $200 scholarships to suitably prepared Mexican students.

The statement has been made to the committee on good authority that "several of the students who finish their studies in such institutions as the Escuela Nacional Preparatoria of Mexico have both the right character and preparation to enter colleges. They are about 18 years of age, with knowledge equivalent to that of average high school graduates of the United States." Further information in regard to Mexican candidates for entrance into our colleges and universities may be obtained from Señor Andrés Osuna, Director-General de Educacion Publica, Mexico, D. F.

In the hope that other colleges may favorably consider the establishment of scholarships for Mexican youth, the matter has been referred to the sub-committee on Govermental relations, with the request that they bring the matter to the attention of presidents of colleges and universities throughout the country.

LATE NEWS NOTES

The total transactions in property registered in the Public Registry Office in Merida for the month of December amounted to over five million dollars.

It has been announced that postal rates of all kinds are to be increased from 25 to 100 per cent, according to the character of the matter mailed.

The lands of many of the municipalities in the State of Coahuila have been carefully surveyed and are being distributed among the poor who have applied for them.

Dredges are actively at work in the port of Frontera, State of Tabasco, deepening the channel in order to permit the entrance of vessels of large draught.

The city authorities of Puebla have prohibited cockfighting on the ground that it is not conducive to the welfare of the people and is as objectionable as bullfighting.

The police authorities of San Luis Potosi have undertaken an active campaign against gambling and other amusements which are contrary to law and the public welfare.

Official notice has been given in Yucatan that the State government has extended legal recognition to the Union of Sellers of Ice Cream, Refreshing Beverages, etc.

The penitentiary in Guadalajara has been put into good sanitary condition by the Department of Public Health and sickness among the inmates has been reduced to a minimum.

The State authorities of Puebla have under consideration the establishment in the capital city of a School of Fine Arts, for which an active movement is under way.

Positive announcement is made in the press that the reports that efforts had been made to negotiate a loan in the United States are without foundation of any character.

A complete revision has been made of the plan of studies of the high schools in the capital city, with the object of making it efficacious and reasonable to the highest degree.

Construction work on the Saltillo and Eastern Railway is progressing rapidly and an extensive agricultural and timber region is thereby being opened for better development.

The Department of Communications and Public Works has entered into a contract for the construction of a wharf at Port Angel, on the west coast, in the State of Oaxaca.

Under instructions efforts are being made to concentrate all the "infalsificable" paper currency in the National Treasury, in order that it may be retired from circulation.

A number of valuable properties in the City of Mexico that had been taken possession of by the Government have been restored to their former owners, who had been active opponents of the Revolution. This work has been in progress for some time.

Reports from Sonora state that since the announcement of the renewal of formal dipomatic relations with the United States, many foreign owners of mines have returned and are reopening their plants, thereby giving employment to large numbers of men.

Notice has been given by the Treasury Department that in placing the exchange value of the American dollar in coin at $1.95 in Mexican coin, the gold dollar is meant and not the silver one. The paper dollar of American currency is valued at $1.80.

The project for the establishment of twenty-seven branches of the Department of Fomento in as many States, for the purpose of directing especial attention to the development of the resources of the Republic, was approved by the Constituent Congress.

The concession granted in 1907 to the Mexican Milling and Transportation Company for the construction of a railway in the State of Guanajuato has been declared nullified because of neglect to comply with the conditions stipulated in the grant.

The Department of the Public Debt has been instructed to prepare a complete statement of all liabilities of the National Government, to be presented to the new administration for consideration as to the means to be adopted for its payment.

The Department of Fomento has refused to grant a concession that was applied for to cut the timber growing on the borders of the Morelia river in the State of Michoacan, on the ground that it would be injurious to that region to remove the growth.

The National Railway lines have been importing the necessary materials for the repair of locomotives and cars at the rate of a hundred thousand dollars' worth quarterly and now have sufficient on hand to put all the rolling stock in good order for use.

The management of the railroad between Ixtlahuaca and Maffi, in the State of Oaxaca, have been given thirty days in which to show cause for the suspension of traffic which has existed for a lengthy period, under penalty of having their concession forfeited.

Under direct order of the First Chief the community lands of Xochimilco, one of the most noted suburbs of Mexico City, and the location of "Las Chinampas," or the so-called floating islands, have been restored to their original and rightful Indian owners.

The American Smelting and Refining Company has reopened its extensive smelting plant at Monterrey, where employment is given to a large number of men, reaching into the thousands.

Steps are being taken for the re-establishment of the postal money order service between Mexico and the United States, which was suspended throughout the revolutionary period.

A public market building of large capacity and with up-to-date appliances is to be constructed in the city of Saltillo. It is proposed to make the building an architectural ornament.

Many laborers and their families are being taken from other portions of the Republic to Yucatan, where there is a scarcity of labor and where the highest wages in the country are now paid.

The military commander of the Federal District has issued strict orders prohibiting the felling of trees within its boundaries, except under special permits granted by the Department of Fomento.

A daily newspaper has been established in Torreon, the center of the Laguna district, by George Von Versen. It is fully equipped with all modern machines and is the first enterprise of the sort in that city.

The Normal School for teachers in Mexico City has been reorganized in accordance with a plan formulated after careful investigation by the Technical Board of Education and approved by the First Chief.

The new Constitution was formally promulgated on February 5th, and the occasion was celebrated with enthusiasm throughout the entire Republic, by meetings, speeches and festivities of various character.

Professor Torres Quintero, chief of public instruction of the State of Yucatan, has come to the United States on matters connected with the improvement of the rapidly increasing educational system of that commonwealth.

The State of Yucatan offers two dollars a day in coin as the lowest rate of wage for laborers from other portions of the Republic, together with many other privileges and advantages.

The first night school for working women was opened in Vera Cruz on February 12th, with a large attendance. It is divided in three sections and has received universal popular approval and support.

LABOR NEWS

Governor Lopez de Lara of the Federal District has issued an order forbidding in the most positive manner, and under severe penalties, the employment of women or minors in any capacity in connection with saloons or places where intoxicating beverages are sold.

Announcement is made that hereafter none but Mexicans are to be employed in any capacity on the National Railway lines. Experience is declared to have demonstrated their entire ability to do this when given the proper opportunity for training.

The workmen in the extensive plant of the Iron and Steel Manufacturing Company, in Mexico City, recently struck for higher wages, claiming that their rate of pay was too low to meet the increased cost of living. The aid of the Department of Labor was called in, and as a result the employees received an increase of ten per cent. in their pay and the hours of labor were materially reduced.

The Directorate of the Constitutionalist Railroads recently appointed a commission, composed of Senores Gustavo Alvarado, Apolonio M. Sanchez and Augustin C. Ruiz, to take charge of the reorganization of the various railroad shops throughout the Republic. The commission has already made the survey of the shops in the cities of Guadalajara, Aguascalientes, San Luis Potosi, Monterrey, Tampico, Piedras Negras, Monclova and Mexico. All of the said shops are now working with regularity, and enormous quantities of rolling stock have been repaired and are again in the service.

The new labor law, as promulgated in the new Constitution, has been received with enthusiasm by working people throughout the entire Republic, and celebrations have taken place everywhere. They recognize that the Constitutionalists have addressed themselves as rapidly as possible to the carrying out of the fundamental principles of the Revolution, and rejoice that for the first time in the history of the nation the common people have received adequate legal protection.

The Congress of Railroad Employees held in Mexico City for the purpose of regulating salaries, hours of labor and other matters pertaining to their employment, has agreed that when it is necessary, for reasons of economy, to reduce expenses, the number of hours constituting a day's work may be established at six, the rates of pay agreed upon being by the hour.

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UNA EXCURSION POR LAS AMERICAS

En la Taquilla del Ferrocarril

Sr. Semanas; al Boletero: ¿A qué hora sale para Nueva York el tren "Congressional Limited?"

Boletero: A las cuatro y tres minutos.

Sr. Semanas: ¿Cuánto vale el pasaje?

Boletero: ¿Viaje-redondo?

Sr. Semanas: No; ida solamente.

Boletero: Cinco dólares y sesenta y cinco centavos ($5.65).

Sr. Semanas: Quiero, para cuatro personas.

Boletero: ¿Para qué día los quiere?

Sr. Semanas: ¡Ah, sí! para mañana, martes.

Boletero: Muy bién.

Sr. Semanas: Claro está que, ¿hay coche-salón en ese tren?

Boletero: Es tren de coches-salón; nada más.

Sr. Semanas: ¿Puedo ajustar los asientos aquí?

Boletero: Ciertamente. En un momento, telefonaré por ellos.

Sr. Semanas: ¿Cuánto importan?

Boletero: Un dólar y veinte y cinco centavos ($1.25), cada uno.

Sr. Semanas: Desearíamos los asientos opuestos unos a otros, dos en cada lado, si es posible.

Boletero: Veremos lo que se pueda hacer.

Sr. Semanas: ¿En dónde arreglaré para el equipaje?

Boletero: Precisamente allá, al otro lado de esta oficina.

Sr. Semanas: Gracias. Atenderé a eso mientras usted telefone.

Boletero: Muy bien.

Sr. Semanas, al agente de trasporte: Quiero que algún equipaje se lleve a la Estación ("Washington Terminal").

A. T.: ¿Para cuál tren?

Sr. Semanas: El "Congressional Limited."

A. T.: ¿Para hoy?

Sr. Semanas: No; mañana por la tarde.

A. T.: ¿Tiene usted su boleto?

Sr. Semanas: Sí; aquí tengo los boletos de cuatro personas.

A. T.: ¿Cuántos bultos?

Sr. Semanas: ¡Vamos a ver! Uno, dos, tres—siete (7) bultos.

A. T.: ¿Estarán listos por la mañana?

Sr. Semanas: Sí. ¿A qué hora se irán a buscar?

A. T.: ¿Están todos en el mismo lugar?

Sr. Semanas: No; daré a usted las direcciones.

A. T.: Estoy listo para tomarlas.

Sr. Semanas: Señorita López, Quince, noventa y ocho (1598), Calle S.; Señor Beltrán, Diez y siete, setenta y cinco (1775), Calle Diez y ocho (18); Señor Semanas, Ocho, noventa y uno (891), Avenida Vermont.

A. T.: ¿Todos en el noroeste?

Sr. Semanas: Sí.

A. T.: El equipaje se pasará a buscar a las nueve, y nueve y media, A. M.

Sr. Semanas: Eso estará bién.

Boletero, al Teléfono: Cuatro asientos; sí. Dos en cada lado, opuestos. ¿No los tiene? Entonces, en otro coche. ¿Sí? Eso está bién.

Estacion Terminal de Washington.

Sr. Semanas: ¿Usted puede conseguirlos?

Boletero: Sí; aquí están. Los números cuatro (4), seis (6), tres(3), y cinco (5).

Sr. Semanas: ¡Bueno! Muchas gracias.

Boletero: No hay de qué.

Los Viajeros en la Estación, en Washington

Sr. Beltrán: Aquí estamos—tres de nosotros al menos.

Sr. Semanas: Me alegro ver a ustedes en tiempo.

Srta. López: La Señorita Andreola, el Señor Semanas. Ella vá con nosotros.

Sr. Semanas: ¿Es eso así? Me alegrará mucho.

Srta. Andreola: Gracias, Señor Semanas.

Srta. López: La Señorita es una de mis amigas, y yo la persuadí de ir con nosotros.

Sr. Semanas: Usted hizo bién.

Sr. Beltrán: Aquí está el cuarto de equipaje. Yo iré adentro ye veré que todo esté bién.

Srta. López: ¿En dónde están el Señor y la Señora Martínez?

Sr. Semanas: Tengo una carta aquí de la Señora Martínez, que explicará su ausencia a ustedes.

Srta. López: ¿Nos la leerá?

Sr. Semanas: Lo haré. Aquí está. ¡No! debe estar en este otro bolsillo. ¡No! ¡Ah, ya recuerdo! Está en este bolsillo interior.

Srta. López: ¿Cuándo la recibió usted?

Sr. Semanas: Esta mañana; fué demorada un día.

Srta. López: Leámosla.

Sr. Semanas: (leyendo): "Nueva York, el nueve. Mis estimados amigos y compañero-viajantes: Siento no estar en Washington para comenzar con ustedes nuestra interesante excursión. Mi padre me necesitó aquí unos días, antes de salir. Les encontraré aquí, y visitaré la Biblioteca y Museo de la: "Hispanic Society of America" (Sociedad Hispana de América), lugar lo más interestante. Telefóneme, tan luego lleguen. Hasta entonces créanme, de ustedes, con los mejores deseos. Elena Martínez."

Srta. López: Muy bién; ¿En dónde está la Señorita Molinera?

Sr. Beltrán (volviendo del Cuarto-equipaje): ¡Allá vá la Señorita Molinera!

Varios: ¡Buenas tardes! ¡Casi tarde!

Srta. Molinera: ¡Déjenme respirar!

Sr. Beltrán: ¿Y su equipaje?

Srta. Molinera: Está aquí, supongo.

Sr. Beltrán: ¡Busquémoslo!

Srta. Molinera: ¡Ah, muy bién! Hasta luego, paisanos!

Srta. López: ¡No se demoren mucho, amigos!

Srta. Molinera: Les hallaremos a la puerta del tren.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Sean puntuales!

Srta. Andreola: ¡Déjeme llegar al Kiosco de los diarios!

Sr. Semanas: ¿Para un periódico?

Srta. Andreola: Sí, Señor, "La Estrella."

Sr. Semanas: Obtendré uno para usted, Señorita.

Srta. Andreola: ¡Gracias!

Sr. Semanas (volviendo): ¡Aquí está su periódico!

Srta. Andreola: ¡Usted es muy atento! ¡Gracias!

Sr. Semanas: ¡De nada!

Srta. López: ¿Cuál es nuestra vía?

Sr. Semanas: El número diez y nueve (19), creo.

Srta. López: ¡Aquí vienen!

Srta. Andreola: ¿Quiénes, quiénes?

Srta. López: ¡Vaya! La Señorita Molinera y el Señor Beltrán. ¿Qué otros?

Srta. Andreola: ¡Ah, sí, está claro!

Sr. Semanas: Tengo los boletos listos para enseñar en la puerta.

Srta. López: ¡Venga, Señorita Molinera!

Srta. Molinera: ¡Aqui estoy! Pero, ¿en dónde está el Señor Martínez?

Sr. Semanas: Olvidé decirles que fué detenido.

Srta. Molinera: Lo sentimos.

Sr. Semanas: El irá allá en un día o dos.

Srta. Molinera: ¡Es una lástima que el Señor Risueño esté enfermo!

Sr. Semanas: El se reunirá con nostros más tarde. Su indisposición no es seria.

Srta. Andreola: Aquí está mi boleto, Señor Semanas.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Muy bién! (Al Inspector de

boletos, dando los boletos) Cinco de nosotros, para Nueva York.

Ins. de B.: ¡A la vía quince (15), Caballero!

Srta. Molinera: ¡Bravo! Que el Inspector de Boletos habla español!

Sr. Semanas: ¿En dónde aprendió español?

Ins. de B.: ¡Ah, viví en México dos años!

Sr. Semanas: ¡Excelente! Usted es mi compañero.

Srta. López: ¿Cuál es nuestro coche?

Sr. Semanas: El coche número tres. Aquí está.

Sr. Beltrán: ¡Y su nombre es: "Alhambra!"

(Dentro del coche) Srta. López: ¿Cuáles son nuestras sillas?

El Portero: Por aquí, Señorita.

Srta. Andreola: ¡Bueno! Están opuestas unas a otras.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Escojan sus asientos, Señoritas!

Srta. Molinera: Creo que tomaré una de las sillas de atrás, para que los pueda observar a todos ustedes.

Srta. López: Es posible que necesitemos vigilar.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Ahora! ¿Están todos a gusto?

Varios: Sí, Caballero. ¡Bastane! ¡Perfectamente bien!

Srta. Molinera: En cuanto a mí, lo estaré en un minuto.

Sr. Beltrán: Déjeme poner su saco-de-noche en otro lugar.

Srta. Molinera: Me alegraré de su ayuda.

Srta. Andreola: ¡Ahora marchamos! Ya el tren se mueve.

Srta. López: Y pués, ya partimos para varias partes de la América!

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To Each Friend Interested in Spanish Page:

You are invited to become a member of the *Spanish Forum* of Washington. The membership fee is one dollar, which will entitle you to The Mexican Review for one year. Also, you will have the privilege of addressing a letter each month, of not more than two hundred words, in the best Spanish you can write, to any member of the party taking the trip of the Spanish Page of The Review, who are all *real people*. The letter will be corrected and returned to you, with an accompanying reply in Spanish. Your letter should relate to some current event of our Western Continent. Questions may be asked or information given and opinions expressed. Such letter should be inclosed in envelope addressed: "Spanish Forum, 21 Madison Place, Washington, D. C."

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LATE MEXICAN NEWS

All saloons and places where intoxicating beverages were sold were rigidly closed on March 11th, election day.

All the primary schools in the State of Chiapas are now in full operation, and the attendance is said to be very large.

The company for the distribution of pulque, which conducted extensive operations in the capital city and surrounding territory, has gone into liquidation.

Instructions have been given that wagons, carriages and automobiles used for commerce or agriculture, may be imported until further instructions free of import duties.

Energetic measures have been taken by the health authorities to the end that the milk offered for sale in the City of Mexico shall be in every way sanitary.

Persistent reports are in circulation in Puebla that Manuel Palafox and Antonio Soto y Gama, two of the chief advisers of Zapata, have been executed by his order.

The Board of Health of the capital city reports that the number of cases of typhus fever has been reduced to a minimum and that normal conditions in this respect are now prevailing.

Notice has been given to the officials in charge of the various custom houses in the Republic that they must not allow the funds received to accumulate therein, but must remit them at once to the national treasury.

Announcement is made that the Mexican Legations in Spain, France, Argentina and some other countries, are to be raised to the rank of embassies in order to better serve the interests of the country abroad.

A Bureau of Information has been established by the Department of Fomento for the purpose of affording all possible data to inquirers regarding the industries of the Republic.

Very strict orders are being enforced against any kind of political propaganda among the troops in the various barracks throughout the City of Mexico, work of the kind being confined to the exterior.

There are now a greater number of newspapers, daily, weekly and monthly, published in the City of Mexico than ever before in its history, and new projects are constantly being considered.

The first day of March, the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Mexico by Hernandez de Cordoba, was celebrated generally and in an appropriate manner throughout the entire Republic.

Football and baseball games in the suburbs of Mexico City draw large crowds every Sunday, and these and other stimulating sports are increasing in popularity in all portions of the Republic.

The authorities have established a store for the sale of medicines to the poor as well as others at prices much less than those demanded at the drug stores, which in many cases are out of all proportion to real value.

The government of Guatemala denies with energy the report that a force of British marines has been landed at Puerto Barrios, on account of the alleged killing of the English consul at that place.

A special agrarian commission has been sent to the Isthmus of Tehuantepec for the purpose of restoring community lands and settling many questions that have arisen in connection therewith.

The Spanish poet, Salvador Rueda, arrived in Mexico City a short time ago, and was warmly welcomed. The newspapers devoted their most prominent positions to the various festivities given in his honor.

The authorities of the Federal District have established a speed of ten kilometers per hour as the limit for all vehicles in the central portion of the city and thirty kilometers in the outskirts. A kilometer is five-eighths of a mile.

One of the daily papers of Mexico City heads its page of cable news in large letters thus: "Truths and Falsehoods by Cable." Much commendation is expressed for the perspicacity thus displayed.

The "jitney" method of transportation is in successful and extensive operation in Mexico City and with various suburbs. The rate of fare is ten cents Mexican coin, or five cents American currency, and the number of autos in use is very large. Many have been specially built for the accommodation of passengers, and certain streets and main thoroughfares present a constant procession en route to the suburbs in every direction. This development has relieved the pressure on the electric car lines, which have not been able to accommodate the public in a proper manner.

An economic phenomenon that can well be qualified as extraordinary, in view of the political difficulties that Mexico has suffered during the past six years, is the advancement of her foreign commerce with the United States. Statistics show that during the fiscal year of 1915-16, ending the month of June last, her exports to the United States reached very nearly $98,000,000, as against $77,600,000 in 1914-15—an increase of more than $20,000,000. The imports from the United States reached $48,300,000—$14,000,000 more than during the year preceding. The total amount of foreign commerce between the two nations reached in round numbers the sum of $146,000,000—figures higher than ever before recorded, and which surpass by $14,000,000, the total foreign commerce between said countries in the year 1912-13, then considered the highest that had ever been attained. This does not include exportations of precious metals, which, although at times prohibited, have been of considerable importance.

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FORWARD STEPS

The convention of instructors held recently in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, declared its belief that the fountain of culture of civilization was afforded by France.

Reports from Guanajuato are that typhus fever has entirely disappeared, no new cases having been registered for some time. Normal health conditions now prevail in that city.

The concession formerly issued to the Mexican Steel and Chemical Products Company has been declared forfeited by the Department of Fomento, for failure to comply with the law.

The Aguilar Petroleum Company has been granted permission to construct a new wharf for the accommodation of its business at the port of Tuxpan, in the State of Vera Cruz.

News from Durango is to the effect that a very general resumption of activities in mining and other directions is noted, and as a result conditions of all kinds are being greatly alleviated.

A contract has been made by the Government for the diversion of the waters of the Lerma River, in the State of Mexico, for the irrigation of lands that have been allotted to various pueblos.

A project is under way by the Department of Fomento for the inauguration of an establishment for the manufacture of chemical products of various kinds for medicinal curative purposes.

A former contract for the construction of a railway between Ixtlahuaca and Mani has been nullified and a new one entered into which protects the rights of the public to a greater extent.

The parents of children in the town of Xochimilco, one of the suburbs of Mexico City, have been notified that they will be severely punished if they do not send their children to school; also that they themselves must attend the night schools and learn to read and write, under penalty.

The National Agrarian Commission is constantly in receipt of applications for the restoration of the "ejidos," or community lands, in all portions of the Republic. The State of Jalisco is said to be foremost in this movement, and great progress has been made in that direction.

The Consul-General of Mexico in Paris reports a large and constantly increasing demand in France for the products of the Republic. There are no less than thirty-one commercial houses in the city named which are devoted exclusively to the handling of Mexican goods of one kind and another, and the demand is lively.

The proprietors of a hotel in Mexico City were recently fined five thousand dollars for allowing unsanitary conditions to prevail therein. The Health Board of the city is active in prosecuting all infractions of the regulations governing such matters, such as adulteration of milk, the offering for sale of articles of food that are unsanitary, etc.

The Aguilar Petroleum Company, known as the Pearson interests, has been given permission to extend its telephone lines in Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz, it being stipulated that such lines are subject to the use of the Government at all times. That concern is also extending its operations in many directions, and frequently applies for permission to construct new works in connection with the petroleum industry, subject of course to the new enactments in that connection.

The Southern Pacific Railroad of Mexico is being urged to resume work on the completion of its line from Tepic to Guadalajara, in accordance with the terms of its original concession, which gave it a liberal subsidy for each mile built. Conditions are normal in the two States to be traversed, and the popular opinion is that the company should fulfill its obligations. This line commences at Nogales, the State of Sonora, and passes through all the principal west coast cities. When completed, it is expected that trains will be operated directly to Mexico City from the western portion of the United States.

MEXICAN BUSINESS

THE REVIEW will undertake confidential inquiries and business commissions of all kinds in any portion of Mexico. It has connections of the highest character in that country and is in a position to obtain results promptly and satisfactorily. Those requiring services of that nature, with an assurance of such results, may address THE MEXICAN REVIEW, 613 Riggs Bldg., Washington, D. C. This service will be conducted free of charge, except where expense is entailed in obtaining the information in Mexico or the correspondent desires information by wire.

To Country Editors and Farmers:

If you want to learn all about the biggest and most successful farmer's coöperative system in the world, you should study the organization of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen of Yucatan.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for the advance in prices and what interests are back of the very costly campaign that is being waged against the Yucatan coöperative marketing system, you should read the SISAL BULLETIN, published every two weeks.

Millions of dollars are being spent by certain wealthy individuals and powerful corporations to regain control over the world's supply of the fibre that is used exclusively, almost, in the manufacture of binder twine for the American farmers. The Sisal Bulletin will keep you posted on this gigantic fight. A postcard or letter will get your name on the permanent mailing list and you will be glad that you found it. It is free.

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Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT
TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
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OF THE
REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

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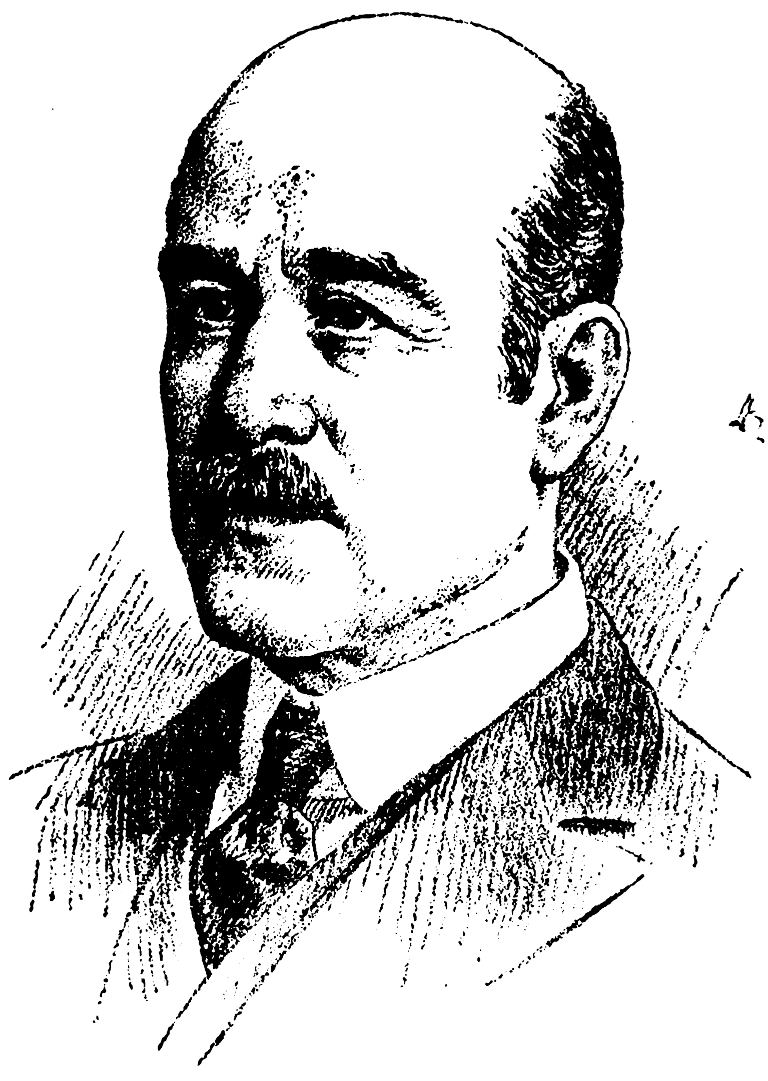

AMBASSADOR YGNACIO BONILLAS

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DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

Resumed Between Mexico and the United States—Ambassador Bonillas Formally Received by President Wilson

On Tuesday, April 17th, diplomatic relations between Mexico and the United States, which had been broken off since the Huerta usurpation, were formally resumed by the reception of Ambassador Ygnacio Bonillas by President Wilson. Mr. Bonillas was accompanied to the White House by Secretary of State Lansing who introduced him to President Wilson.

At the time of the usurpation of Huerta and the assassination of President Madero, Ambassador Calero was the duly accredited representative of the Mexican Government in this city. During the troublous interim between that time and the final triumph of the Constitutionalists, various confidential agents represented the opposition to the usurper, but when the Constitutionalist government finally triumphed Mr. Eliseo Arredondo was appointed and semi-officially filled the position of Ambassador, being largely instrumental in bringing about the recognition of that Government by the United States.

With the appointment and reception of Ambassador Bonillas, Mexico is represented for the first time in duly accredited and formal diplomatic manner with the Government of the United States. It is confidently believed by all who sincerely desire the maintenance of cordial relations between the two countries that the presence and efforts of Ambassador Bonillas will go far toward bringing about a removal of many misunderstandings and the establishment of the most friendly mutual conditions.

AMBASSADOR BONILLAS' ADDRESS TO THE PRESIDENT.

After the ceremony of introduction, Ambassador Bonillas spoke as follows to President Wilson:

"Mr. President: I have the honor of handing to Your Excellency, the autograph letter which accredits me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Government of Mexico near the Government of the United States of America.

"It has been a matter of great satisfaction for me to accept the honor of representing the Mexican people before the great American Nation, and as I am aware of the difficulty and magnitude of the task, I shall endeavor to attain by means of the mutual interchange of the highest and most complete diplomatic intercourse, the continuance of the strong friendship happily existing heretofore, and which of necessity should exist between two neighboring countries which have similar political institutions and interests, and are destined to carry out such an important part in the development of the American Continent.

"After the long struggle to institute a democratic government, emanating from their own choice, and representative of their own aspirations, the Mexican people have succeeded in the realization of their highest ideals.

"By her recent elections, Mexico has insured the re-establishment of constitutional order, and on May first the officials freely elected by the popular ballot will take the oath of office, and the Republic will feel the satisfaction of returning to its place in the concert of nations.

"As a natural consequence, I hope the most cordial relations and sympathy will continue to exist between our peoples and our governments. My most ardent desires are that it may be so, and I trust that, in order to accomplish this end, a warm reciprocity may be accorded by the Government so worthily presided over by Your Excellency.

"The First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in Charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, duly elected President, has instructed me to convey to Your Excellency his sincerest desire for your personal happiness and for the prosperity of the people of the United States.

"I entreat Your Excellency, in behalf of the Mexican people, and in my own name, to accept the same cordial salutation."

PRESIDENT WILSON'S REPLY.

Replying to Ambassador Bonillas, President Wilson said:

"Mr. Ambassador: I am happy to accept the credential letters by which His Excellency the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in Charge of the Executive Power of the United Mexican States accredits you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the *de facto* Government of Mexico near the Government of the United States, and to accord you formal recognition in that high capacity.

"The close neighborhood of the United States and Mexico makes it most desirable that there should be between the two countries relations of friendly trust and confidence. It has been my endeavor in these years of unrest and strife in Mexico to impress upon the Mexican people that the United States has none but the best interests of Mexico at heart and has no wish more selfish than to see its people placed in the enjoyment of the blessings of peace, happiness and prosperity by the establishment of a constitutional and stable government, capable, among other things, of affording due protection to American citizens and property, and of meeting all other international requirements.

"I take note of your statement that constitutional order will be re-established in Mexico on May 1st. I shall welcome the day that brings me convincing evidence that a constitutional government has been established in Mexico both willing and able to afford to American citizens and their property the same measure of protection and to apply to them the same impartial administration of justice that is afforded and is applied to nationals or the citizens or subjects of other foreign countries. The United States asks no more and can, of course, accept no less."

THE FORMAL CEREMONY.

The President sent his car for Ambassador Bonillas, and the Secretary of State, Mr. Lansing, accompanied by the President's Aide, went therein to accompany the Ambassador to the White House. Upon arrival and upon the Ambassador alighting from the car, he was escorted by the Secretary of State and the Military Aide into the Presidential residence. The car of Secretary of State Lansing had been sent to the Embassy for the staff of Ambassador Bonillas, and they followed their chief into the Executive Mansion.

Having laid aside their wraps, and preceded by the Chief Aide of the White House and the Senior Naval Aide, both in full dress uniforms, the Ambassador and his staff were escorted to the Green Room, passing, in the corridor, four of the President's Junior Aides, standing covered as the Ambassador and his Staff passed. The two Aides having preceded the Ambassador as far as the entrance to the Green Room, stood on either side of the door until the Ambassador and his Staff had entered within, then retiring, to notify the President of the Ambassador's arrival and to escort him to the Blue Room, where the reception took place. The President stood in the center of the room, the two aides who accompanied him standing at the rear.

Two junior aides were then dispatched to announce to the Ambassador that the President would be pleased to receive him. Both doors leading from the corridor to the Green Room were then thrown open, and the Ambassador and the Secretary of State, escorted by these two Junior Aides, entered the Blue Room by way of the corridor, the aides taking their position on either side of the door leading into that room. The Junior Aides who escorted the Ambassador and the Secretary of State to the Blue Room entered the room, closing the doors behind them, and took their positions immediately within the enclosure. The Secretary of State then presented the Ambassador to the President. The Ambassador advanced to where the President stood, and after shaking hands, read his address and presented his letters of credence, to which the President replied, and the Ambassador then presented his Staff to the President.

After a formal farewell, the Ambassador then returned to the Embassy in the President's car.

AMBASSADOR BONILLAS

Mr. Ygnacio Bonillas, the newly appointed Ambassador for Mexico to the United States, is a native of the State of Sonora. He was educated in the United States, and graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the class of '84, having had the distinction of completing the regular four years' course of study in three years, an interesting coincidence being that subsequently his son, Y. S. Bonillas, followed the example of his father in the same institution.

Preceding his graduation, Mr. Bonillas was for a time an instructor in the Public Schools of Tucson, Arizona, but thereafter took up his profession as a mining engineer, and in a short time attained prominence therein, being recognized as among the foremost men in his country, as well as of the American Southwest, in that important occupation. His name has been intimately connected with many of the leading mining and engineering enterprises of both countries.

Mr. Bonillas was an ardent supporter of Madero, and when the Huerta treason occurred, was largely instrumental in securing the refusal of the State of Sonora to countenance or recognize the usurpation in any way, and aided in securing the co-operation of that State with Coahuila in active opposition. He was at that time a member of the State Legislaure, which unanimously demanded that the then Governor, Jose Maria Maytorena, should assume a manly and protesting attitude against the usurpation. As that official seemed loath to comply, the Legislature gave him leave of absence, of which he availed himself to go abroad. Ygnacio L. Pesqueira, also a member of the Legislature, was then appointed in his stead and carried out the determination of that body to oppose the usurper, which was successfully accomplished.

Mr. Bonillas attached himself to the personal following of First Chief Carranza very early in the movement, and was placed by the leader in charge of the Department of Communications, which includes the railways, postal and telegraphic communication, vital elements in the campaign. To these branches he devoted his entire energy and skill, with the result that no time was ever lost in restoring traffic as rapidly as the various portions of the country came under Constitutionalist control. The Department of National Development (Fomento) was also under the charge of Mr. Bonillas up to the entrance of the Constitutionalist Government into the City of Mexico, September, 1914.

When the Government was firmly established, Mr. Bonillas addressed himself to the matter of bettering all the branches of the service under his charge, with especial reference to port works and shipping facilities, and the most important of these are now well under way, notably at Tampico, Veracruz, Manzanillo, Mazatlan, Guaymas, etc.

When the Mexican-American Commission was decided upon in the summer of 1916, Mr. Bonillas was selected as one of the three delegates from Mexico, and brought to the deliberations of that body the same wide intelligence and convincing manner that are among his principal characteristics. Subsequently he returned to his post of duty in Mexico, and again took up up the plan of improvement which had been adopted after long personal study and investigation.

When it was decided by the First Chief to appoint him to the Ambassadorship in Washington, the selection was commended by all as one of the best that could be made, his education, experience and personality all combining to render him peculiarly well fitted to represent his native country with the American Government.

As indicated, Mr. Bonillas speaks, reads and writes the English language to perfection, which is an invaluable addition to his other qualifications for the position. Mr. Bonillas' wife is an American lady and his family of three daughters has been warmly and cordially welcomed by all who have had the pleasure of meeting them.

First Secretary Juan B. Rojo

With Ambassador Bonillas, there has been installed in the Embassy Dr. Juan B. Rojo, Esq., as First Secretary. Mr. Rojo is a young lawyer who has taken a prominent part in legal matters and international affairs in Mexico. He obtained his degree as attorney-at-law in the College of Jurisprudence of Mexico City in 1912, and shortly after taking his degree was appointed Judge of Instruction at the Capital, which post he occupied for a very brief period.

Before entering the diplomatic field, Mr. Rojo followed his profession, devoting his attention especially to juridic banking and commercial matters. He is well known to the members of the American colony in Mexico City. Subsequently, he became Consulting Counsellor of the Department of International Affairs, and was promoted Counsellor General of the State Department of Mexico. He held the Cathedra of Spanish Literature and Language at the National Preparatory College of the National University, and was Secretary of the American-Mexican Joint Commission at New London and Atlantic City.

Mr. Rojo has made a study of American institutions. In his leisure moments he continues his literary pursuits and is ever studying and observing. It is believed he will be a most important factor in promoting amity and a thorough understanding between the United States and Mexico.

The school established in Hermosillo some time since for the education of the children of the Yaqui Indian tribes of the mountains of Sonora has proved a great success. Many pupils are in attendance and the number is constantly increasing. The parents welcome the opportunity for the advancement of their offspring, in whose education is seen the prospect for the final settlement of the perennial "Yaqui question."

Official Report of the National Railways

The official report of the National Railways of Mexico for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1916, has recently been issued under the authority of Executive President A. J. Pani. The Review has no space to devote to the report in detail, but will quote one paragraph which concludes a lengthy statement of the operation of the roads under Government control from December, 1914, down to date—June, 1916: "That it (the Government) has already been able to transform the former chaos into an organized service."

While much has been done in the way of repairs to tracks and bridges, it is estimated that the cost of putting the entire system in perfect condition would reach $23,101,002 gold, divided as follows: Rails, $5,625,078; tracks, $13,197,000; bridges, $4,279,024.

It is estimated that the replacement and repair of rolling stock will cost some $4,500,000, and that the total expense of placing the properties in the same condition as before the Revolution will reach in round numbers $24,500,000. The total amount of interest due on the indebtedness of the company is $25,749,845.

After reading the report and learning the tremendous difficulties that have been met and overcome in bringing the roads to their present condition of efficiency in all portions of the Republic, one is prepared to admire the administrative talent that has been displayed and to have confidence in the ability of the Government to bring about an early restoration of pre-revolutionary conditions, and even their betterment.

Oil Taxed According to Value

After May 1, a new schedule of taxes will go into effect, by which, instead of the method hitherto followed of taxing oil for export by weight, the duty will be assessed according to the value of the product. Combustible oil will bear a tax of 10 per cent. of its value, such value being fixed by decree at $4.75 American gold per ton for oil with a density of .91. On oils of lighter density there will be an additional charge of 10 cents for each centimeter below .91. The value for taxation purposes of the combustible oil which is used by the British navy was fixed at $3.75 American gold, assuming that it has a density greater than .97.

Refined products destined for exportation will be taxed as follows: Crude gasoline, ½ cent per liter; lubricants, ⅛ cent per liter; asphalt, 75 cents per ton. No tax is levied upon crude or refined petroleum or petroleum products consumed in the Republic.

A decree will soon be issued making it obligatory for all manufacturers of cotton cloth and thread to pay one year's taxes in advance.

SAN LUIS POTOSI

Progress Made in One of the Leading Mining States, Since the Revolution

General Federico Chapoy, Governor of the State of San Luis Potosi, has furnished THE REVIEW with the following summary of the more important features of the work accomplished in that State since the triumph of the Revolution. It will well repay perusal, especially by those who entertain the erroneous belief that the pledges of the Constitutionalists are not being kept so far as is humanly possible. The report says:

Scientific and Literary Institute, San Luis Potosi

EDUCATIONAL

The educational system was one of the most neglected factors of the Dictator's Government.

The Government which has emanated from the Revolution has been the one to give every kind of help in promoting education and the instruction of the children on a greater scale than when the Republic possessed every element for its accomplishment.

Together with this information are given two charts, which show the number of existing schools in the State at the time of the Revolution's triumph, and those now actually established and in which all instruction is given, fulfilling the requirements of modern advancement necessary for effective social progress.

Number of schools of different classes and categories, supported by either the State or municipality, operating when the Revolution triumphed:

In State Capital	No.
For boys	12
" girls	13
" young children	14
" adults	10
" both sexes	3
Suburban	5
Normal	2
Total	59

State, Cities and Towns	No.	Total
For boys	67	79
" girls	65	78
" young children	8	22
" adults	0	10
" both sexes	3	6
Suburban	50	55
Normal	0	2
Total	193	252

The staff of professors of both sexes necessary for the total 252 schools numbered 350.

Number of schools of different classes and categories, supported either by the State or municipality, in actual existence:

In State Capital	No
For boys	20
" girls	23
" young children	15
" adults	14
" both sexes	6
Suburban	8
Normal, co-ed	1
Total	87

State, Cities and Towns	No.	Total
For boys	67	87
" girls	66	89
" young children	7	22
" adults	12	26
" both sexes	0	6
Suburban	103	111
	0	1
Total	255	342

The staff of professors of both sexes actually employed by the 369 schools is approximately 745.

THE LAND QUESTION

Since the local agrarian board, a direct branch of the Ministry of Fomento, was founded, it has worked actively on this matter, which is of much importance to the Government. With the strictest justice, community lands will be returned to the towns, and tracts will be donated to diligent workmen who desire them, to be duly cultivated for the growth of the national wealth.

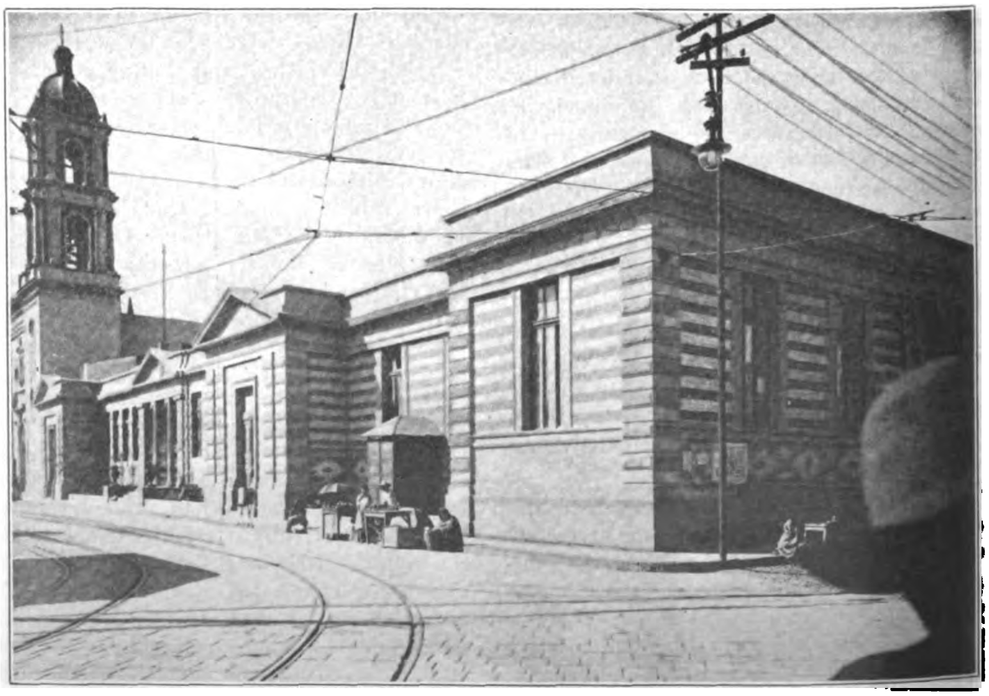
CHURCHES

Religious denominations have due liberty, the Government never having employed any measures whatsoever against the practice of the same, and watching solely to prevent these practices from passing the religious limit. But, happily, this has not occurred, as the people have had sufficient tact to devote themselves solely to what religion prescribes and not to use this as a political weapon to impede the Government's progress. It is demonstrated by this manner of procedure that the public is impregnated with the justice that guides this same Government.

POLITICS

Never has the public enjoyed so much liberty as now for meetings of this nature. The greatest proof is the fact that the Constituent Congress, as also the Municipal Boards, were put in power by the free and spontaneous vote of their sympathizers—men from all the different social classes.

In the Capital of the State there are up to date approximately 15 clubs, which form the nucleus for the clubs of adjacent towns and districts. These have reached the encouraging number of 50 and were all organized for the purpose of working for the candidacy of Don Venustiano Carranza as President of the Republic, and also for the candidacy of the Governor of the State (each political club



"Model School," San Luis Potosi

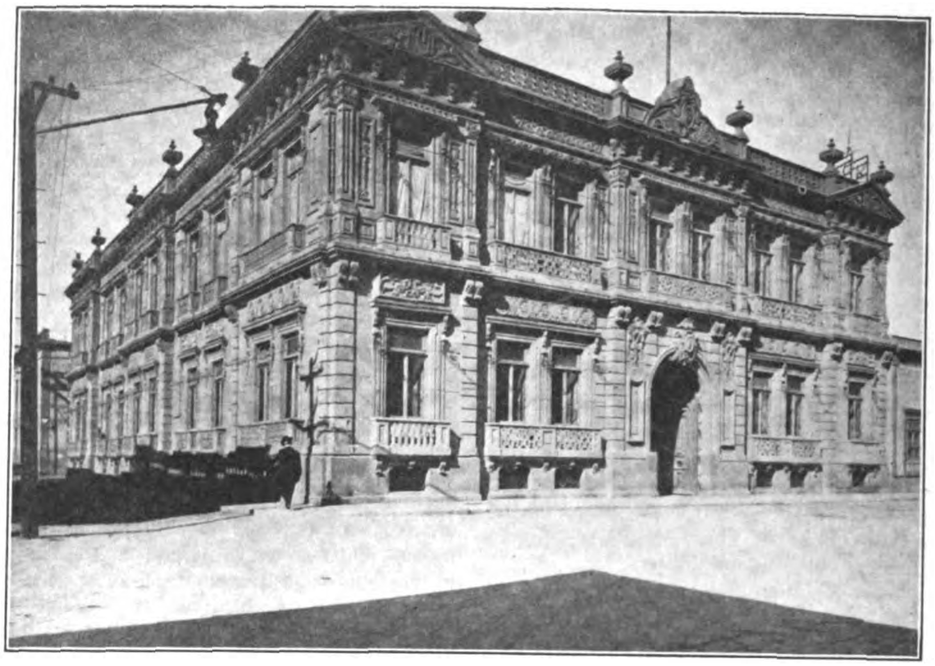
proposing its own candidate), at the general elections, all enjoying full guarantees, given by the local and national authorities.

The industrial and commercial status of the State is, if not the same as in time of peace, still far better than the versions spread by the antagonists of our cause, while any partial stagnation is only temporary, and is a logical and natural consequence of all civil war. It is constantly demonstrated by the resumption of industrial and agricultural activities of all kinds that the Mexican public has every confidence in the cause by which the First Chief is inspired.

MINING

In the entire State there are approximately 1,500 mines, which, if operated, can daily employ 20,000 men. Mines which for different reasons have had their titles cancelled, but for which concessions can be solicited for other persons, are the following: "Anexión a Salvadora," "La Gallega," "Anexion a Nueva Alianza," and "La Perla," situated in the district of Charcas; "Benito Juarez," "Anexas a Santo Nino," "Las Golondrinas," "Anexas a Las Golondrinas," "Sin Nombre," and "El Santo Nino," situated in the Matehuala district. Mining properties with new titles, which have been granted recently, are as follows: "Ampliacion a Proano," in the Venado district; "Segunda Anexion a San Francisco," "Ninas de Muncio," "La Esperanza," in the Catorce district; "Nueva York," "Carlos and Juana Maria," in the Venado district; "Bienvenida" and "El Patrocinis," in the Catorce district; "San Vincente," "Anexas a San Vincente," and "Teodora," in the Catorce district; "Las Canteras" and "Manrrubio," in the Venado district. Mines that are actually working, although on a small scale, are the following: "La Nueva Paz," "Dolores y Anexas," "La Esmeralda," "La Sorpresa y Anexas," in the Charcas mining district, and the mines of "Antimonio" and "The International Mining and Smelting Company." In the San Pedro district of this Capital the following mines are working on a small scale: "Cia Metalurgica Mexicana" and "El Borreno." In the Catorce district the mines "Antimonio," "The International Mining and Smelting Company," "Republican Mining and Smelting Company," "Ninas del Sr. Gonzalo Morales," and "Concepcion."

The principal mines in the State are the following: "Compania Union Catorce," "Negociacion de Santa Ana y Anexas," "Protecion al Trabajo," "El Refugio," "La Purisima," "Socanon Anenturero," "Boquiero," "Candelaria," and "Filosofal." Every means possible within the reach of this Government will be exercised to compel all these mines to open and renew operations as soon as possible, and also to oblige the Ogarrio Railway to resume traffic. This railway belongs to "La Negociacion de Santa Ana" and is the line that communicates with and unites all the mines of the Catorce district.



National Telegraph Office, San Luis Potosi

"La Paz" Theater, San Luis Potosi

SPECIFIED DATA

"La Paz" mine can employ 2,000 men; "Dolores y Anexas," 1,500; "Esmeralda," 500, and "Nueva Paz," 300. The other mines of minor importance in that district can employ a total of about 500.

In Charcas the main shaft can employ 1,000 men and the less important mines together about 1,000 men.

Mines in Catorce: "Santa Ana," 1,000 men; "Compania Union Catorcena," 1,000 men; "Concepcion," 500 men; "Dolores Trompeta," 500 men; "El Refugio," 500 men; "Purisima," 200 men; "Boquerro," 100 men; "Candelaria y Filosofal," 300 men; and those of minor importance about 400 men.

Mines in Cerro de San Pedro: "Metalurgica Mexicana," 800 men; "Barreno," 300 men, and the mines of lesser importance 300 men.

In De Cedral: "Sorpresa y Anexas," 300 men, and others can employ about 300. Five hundred men can daily be employed in the mines of "Antimonio."

RAILWAYS

No new railway has been projected recently, but all those which run through the State are in the best possible condition for traffic, as it has been feasible to eliminate the gangs of semi-bandits at times causing interruptions on the railway lines. As soon as complete peace is established, the Government in general consolidated and paying due attention to the natural resources of this beautiful State, railways and other industries will reach the pinnacle of development and wealth.

The National Library is to be placed in charge of an experienced librarian, who will address himself at the outset to the preparation of a complete catalogue of all the works, something that has never been accomplished in the past.

IN THE OIL REGIONS

Constitutionalist Government Adopts Measures for Preventing Accidents so Far as Possible

The Constitutionalist Government, taking into consideration the general interest of the country and the protection due to private interests, in the regions where petroleum is in the course of exploration, has issued orders tending to lessen the danger, as much as possible, of an oil deposit catching fire and spreading to other nearby deposits, dwellings, workshops, etc., and also keeping in view the fact that the earthen dams and open concrete deposits recently constructed, are very defective because of the porous condition of the bottom and walls and their large open surfaces.

We here give some of the most interesting regulations, treating with the storage of petroleum. These regulations forbid the construction of earthen dams, except of provisional nature and which in the course of one year must be substituted by a tank of steel or other material to conform with the required regulations and keep the following distances within their own and the boundary lines of roads, wells, dwellings and other field installations:

1. From surrounding boundaries, 20 meters.
2. From dwelling houses, 40 meters, measured from the most prominent point.
3. From different work-shops and other installations (boilers, foundries, etc.), 40 meters, measured from the most prominent point.
4. From the nearest center-line of a railway, 40 meters.
5. From the center-line of thoroughfares and railway, 40 meters.
6. From the bore-hole of oil wells, 40 meters.
7. From other open deposits, whether these be constructed of earth, concrete, or other material, 40 meters, measured between the lines of the nearest boundaries or walls.

These tanks may have the capacity necessary for the use to which they are designated and must be surrounded by a fence at a distance of two meters, measured from the exterior of the tank. Said tanks must have an earthen bank built around them two meters high, with a cap of 50 centimeters, a pit of 1.50 meters horizontal, by 1 meter vertical and the exterior circumference having a diameter of 97 meters. The roofs of these tanks must be gas proof and have, whenever possible, a condensing or compressing apparatus, or where this is not feasible, gas escape valves protected with metal mesh covers, must be installed. Tanks must be equipped with preventive and extinguishing fire installations and must have a rapid method of drawing off contents, thus lessening risks should fire occur. The following distances must be observed between the tanks and their boundaries, other wells and various installations:

1. From neighboring boundaries, 50 meters.
2. From dwelling houses, 60 meters, measured from the most projecting point nearest the tanks.
3. From various work-shops and installations (boilers, foundries, etc.), 60 meters, measured from the most projecting point nearest the plant.
4. From the center-line of the nearest railway line, 60 meters.
5. From the center-line of roads and thoroughfares, 50 meters.
6. From oil wells, 60 meters.
7. From the nearest installations of a refining plant, 100 meters.
8. From the other tanks of equal capacity or less, 100 meters.

In exceptional cases where the latest style of tank is being erected, provided with all the necessary equipment for the prevention and suffocation of fire, special permission may be solicited from the Minister of Fomento, which will be granted if deemed advisable, so that tanks may be erected within a closer distance than 100 meters, but never less than 80 meters. The distances previously mentioned, refer only to deposits with a capacity of 55,000 barrels, or less.

Besides these, the circular quoted from contains the rules which govern steel storage tanks. The construction of any tank or deposit, or the remodification of those already constructed, cannot be terminated, except during the time the permit is in force, the same having been granted in writing, either by the Minister of Fomento, or by its branch, the Department of Oil Inspection. These tanks cannot be used until inspected by that Department.

A maximum time limit of two years was fixed, taking effect from the date of the circular in reference; for the earth dams and open deposits to be substituted by tanks built of steel, or any other suitable material.

Any person infringing on the regulations will be liable to punishments of fines, temporary suspension of work, or a definite closure of the plant.

The Department of Archaeology has decided to enter upon a comprehensive plan of research throughout the Republic. The operations of that branch have been suspended for several years, but with the restoration of peace the time is believed to be opportune for the resumption of these important and interesting researches.

For the first time in a number of years the National School of Fine Arts has prepared a public exhibition of paintings and art works which is said to be extensive and very interesting as well as instructive. The members of the school have shown great enthusiasm in the revival of this feature.

"Neighbor Nations Association"

There has recently been organized in San Francisco a society with the foregoing appellation and which has for its object the enlightenment of the people of the United States and of the world at large with regard to the true conditions in Mexico. The honorary president of the Association, Mrs. Dorothy B. Fullen, writes as follows to The Review regarding the work that has been undertaken:

"The Neighbor Nations Association has been organized by San Francisco friends who are much interested in a plan to bring about more neighborly relations between the people of the United States and Mexico.

"On this trip to San Blas I am taking food, clothing, medicines and supplies for a small hospital which I hope to establish there. This is to demonstrate the real friendliness of people in the United States and from this small beginning we hope the work will grow.

"Rev. J. A. B. Fry is with me and will gather material to return and tell of the real conditions in Mexico, facts which the newspapers either overlook or distort. Robert H. Willson, a newspaper man, is also with me to write articles for a publicity campaign in the States.

"I want millions of Americans to see Mexico as I see it and to love its people with their child-like simplicity and faith in those whom they know to be their friends. The "Mexican trouble" is largely due to the attitude of Americans who have gone in there for the purpose of exploiting the country and its people. The purpose of this organization is to send others in who will demonstrate that there are other Americans, and many of them, with quite a different attitude.

"Wherever I have spoken I have found great interest and enthusiasm along this line. It is unpopular with the daily newspapers to a large degree but we hope to find many avenues of publicity open to us. I hope that you will be able to assist us in placing the true motives and spirit of this work before the American public."

The officers of the association are as follows, the headquarters being at 203-205 Lick Building, San Francisco:

President, Victor Seawell; vice-presidents, Mrs. H. deC. Richards, Miss Frances Jolliffe, Mrs. George Harris; secretary, Isabel Munson; treasurer, H. deC. Richards; advisory board, James Rolph, Jr., Mayor of San Francisco; Mrs. M. S. Richardson, Chairman Western Division International Peace Conference; Rev. F. W. Clampett, Trinity Episcopal Church; Mrs. A. L. Whitman, District President Mothers' Congress; Samuel Shortridge, Mrs. C. E. Cumberson, National Physical Education Committee; Mrs. Ednah Aiken, J. Stitt Wilson, Rabbi Nieto, Rev. J. A. B. Fry, Rev. Paul Smith; Honorary President, Mrs. Dorothy B. Fullen, Tepic, Mexico.

With the continual introduction of new forms of amusement in Mexico to take the place of the old, such as baseball, cricket, football, etc., a new vocabulary is being coined. One of the latest additions seen in the newspaper columns is a department headed "Notas Sportivas," or Sporting Notes.

MEXICO AND GERMANY

Unfounded Character of the Many Damaging Allegations in Circulation

For several months past there has been a very determined and very persistent movement carried on in a portion of the press of the United States whose perfectly apparent object is to embroil this country and Mexico in trouble through allegations of intrigue between Germany and the Constitutionalist Government. The center of this movement has been in El Paso, that point from which during the past five years have emanated so many falsehoods regarding Mexico that intelligent people long since refused to believe any story, no matter how plausible, that bore the date of the Texas city.

These stories, whose object is so apparent that any reasonable person would think they would receive no credence, have been of the most absurd character and really should receive no attention, but THE REVIEW proposes to show the fallacy of at least some of them.

For example, it has been said that thousands of Germans have crossed the border from the United States into Mexico during the past three or four months, and since the situation between the two now hostile countries became critical. As a matter of fact, the records of the various ports along the border and through which only can any considerable number of persons pass from one country to the other, show that in that period *less than two hundred* Germans all told have crossed the line. The actual number is between 150 and 170.

Careful watch kept at the port of Tampico by private parties, not connected with either government, but vitally interested in learning the truth, show that *exactly thirty Germans* are in that city who may be classed as newcomers.

No vessel plying between American and Mexican ports can land foreigners at the latter who are not provided with passports issued by Mexican Consular officials in the United States. During the period while the "scare" has been most diligently in process of incubation, less than five hundred such passes have been issued.

So far from their being, as positively declared, large numbers of German officers in the Mexican army, there are none. There are, perhaps, half a dozen men of German parentage on the father's side, natives of Mexico and Mexican citizens, in one branch or another of the army, but these have been there since the commencement of the Revolution and joined the Constitutionalist forces at a time when no one dreamed of any trouble between the United States and Germany.

General Obregón, Secretary of War and Navy, has just *prohibited absolutely the entry of any foreigner into the army, and has commanded that those in the Army must leave the service.*

Much has been made by some who are ignorant of the facts, over the allegation that a German bank in Mexico City has been favored by being "permitted" to continue business, while British, French and other foreign-owned banking institutions were said to have been proceeded against. The fact is that not only was the German bank "allowed" to continue operations, but so also all the banks which were not banks of emission and did not fall, naturally, within the obligation of guaranteeing their notes.

The banks that found themselves in trouble were those that had refused to comply with the law regarding the redemption of their paper currency, and there was no question of the nationality of their ownership. Mexican-owned banks of issue were treated exactly as were foreign-owned institutions. But the Canadian, the American, the French and the German banks, having no note issues, continued business without interruption.

The mortgage banks, one of them of French capital and another of English capital, have not been in the least molested, and they have even found themselves exempt from redeeming their mortgage bonds at the present time.

The following banks are now operating in the city of Mexico: Banco Internacionale Hipotecario; Credit Foncier Mexicain; Compañía Bancaria de París y México; Mexico City Banking Co.; Mercantile Banking Co.; The Canadian Bank of Commerce; The Bank of Montreal; Descuento Español, and Banco Central Mexicano, all of them well known in Mexico.

The entire list of falsehoods in this connection might be gone through with, but these are sufficient as examples, and their refutation is but an illustration of the character of the whole tissue of misrepresentations.

It is true, there are a large number of Germans in Mexico City and there always have been. Some of the largest commercial houses there are of German ownership and management, principally hardware stores, and other small wares, whose commerce, one may say, has for over fifty years been in the hands of the Germans. But there has been no notable increase in the German population within the past six months. Had there been such increase it would have been impossible to conceal it. THE REVIEW editor made special inquiry in this direction while visiting Mexico City recently and from all sources the foregoing was confirmed. It was declared with positiveness, too, that the German merchants in the city, while naturally sympathizing with their native land, had no sympathy for any movement calculated to embroil Mexico with the United States, and that they would assuredly not countenance or support any such plan, as it would imperil and threaten with destruction their business interests.

So far as concerns even the possibility of an alliance between Mexico and Germany or any other foreign country, a very high official thus expressed himself recently to the editor of THE REVIEW:

"How can the people of the United States believe for a moment that Mexico would be so foolish? Do they not realize that we Mexicans understand to the fullest that it would be national suicide for us to ally ourselves with any country outside of this continent as opposed to the United States? Mexico knows that the only possible course to be pursued by all the Latin-American countries is one of friendship with the United States, and of constant opposition, if such should ever be needed, against aggression from any foreign country, no matter what."

This opinion, when repeated to other leading officials, was heartily endorsed by them. Indeed they all seemed unable to comprehend how Americans could for a moment be misled into believing any such alliance was contemplated, let alone possible. The very idea is characterized as absurd and only to be entertained by those of the most credulous disposition.

California Women to Help Mexico

The California women are in correspondence with women composing the recent Yucatan congress of women and a convention of women held in the City of Mexico, and it is hoped that a delegation of women may be sent to the Sonora conference which it is expected Governor Calles will call.

For the first time in the history of the relations between Mexico and the United States the direct organized effort of women of both countries is about to make itself felt. Club women of San Francisco have taken steps to ask Military Governor Calles and Civil Governor De La Huerta of the state of Sonora, to call together a body of women of that State to act in conjunction with the California women for the purpose of counteracting the effect of influences that are seeking to cause friction between the countries, and to promote generally the mutual interests of the women of the two nations and bring about a better understanding.

New laws governing immigration and emigration are being prepared by the Secretary of Fomento and will be presented as quickly as possible.

The demand for copper has stimulated its production in Mexico and it is expected that at least one hundred million pounds will be produced in that country this year.

Governor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles, of the State of Coahuila, has issued strict orders for the suppression of gambling throughout the entire State. All local officials have been instructed to carry out these orders immediately and thoroughly.

The Department of Fomento is preparing a catalogue of all the products of the country, natural and industrial, for the information of those who desire to undertake development in any direction. Care will be taken to make the work complete and accurate.

· The ·
Mexican Review
A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO
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CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

MEXICO'S MOST NOTABLE EPOCH

May 1, 1917, marked the termination of what may well be called the most important epoch in Mexican history.

It is the date of the restoration of constitutional government, which was so ruthlessly destroyed by Huerta and his traitorous accomplices on February 18, 1913, followed by the deliberate assassination of the President and Vice-President.

The outlook for Mexico at that time was indeed dark. The traitors had possession of all the military and financial resources of the country; they had control of all but a small fraction of the territory of the Republic; many foreign nations had made what seemed like undue haste to recognize the usurpation, and for a time it even seemed probable that the United States might join the not creditable procession, though this disgrace was happily obviated by the wise action of President Wilson.

On the day following the accomplishment of the Huerta treason, Governor Venustiano Carranza of the State of Coahuila summoned the Congress of that commonwealth in special session, and without hesitation or delay that body issued a bold defiance to the usurper, refused to recognize him or his allies in any manner, and authorized Carranza to take the field with all possible force and energy in defense of constitutional government.

Seldom has such a forlorn hope been seen in the world's history. With but a handful of men, with no arms and no munitions, and with no money with which to purchase them, yet secure in the justice of the cause and with a firm and unalterable belief in the ultimate triumph of the right, Governor Carranza and his few devoted associates, with their lives in their hands, engaged in the apparently hopeless task set before them.

The story is a long one and is replete with incident. Not for a moment did these brave patriots falter in their chosen course. From a mere captain's guard of men of nondescript equipment and condition, grew with rapid their hands, engaged in the apparently hopeless task set before them. strides an army of tens of thousands. From the few scattered outposts in Coahuila, that army took possession of city after city, of State after State, until Huerta and his allies had fled in disgrace, their armies dispersed, and the capital city was finally entered in triumph.

The obstacles that were met and overcome were tremendous and oftentimes seemed insuperable. Yet the Constitutionalist leader never faltered and never lost faith. He never permitted himself to be swayed by unwarranted outside or domestic interference. With the single definite object in view—the restoration of constitutional government—he pressed on and on, until now, on May 1, 1917, over four years after the traitorous destruction of such government, he has the proud privilege of accomplishing its restoration, as demonstrated by his inauguration as the regularly chosen Chief Magistrate of the Republic.

At the same time that this great triumph has been brought about, the country has been given, under the guidance of President Carranza, an organic law of the most advanced character, in which the rights of the humblest citizen are guarded with effectiveness, and which sets an example for the rest of the world in the abolition of special privilege and the guarantee of equal rights to all.

When one studies with impartiality what the past four years have done for Mexico, he may well substantiate the statement made at the outset—that those years mark the most important epoch in the history of Mexico, an epoch which places the name of President Venustiano Carranza among the most illustrious leaders and statesmen of his era as well as of the entire history of his country.

A CLEAR STATEMENT OF FACTS

G. B. Winton, Acting Executive Secretary of the Committee on Co-operation in Latin America of American Mission Boards, has recently returned from a ten weeks' stay in Mexico City and informs the New York *Times* that there is no trace there of pro-German activity, and little anti-American sentiment. Mr. Winton has spent much of his time in Mexico for the last thirty years, and he says that what Mexicans want just now is to be let alone to attend to internal problems.

"It is surprising," he said, "how few traces you see down there of the things you hear about here. I know the people and their language; I can even recognize the German 'brogue' in Spanish. I met some of my old-time German merchant friends in various cities down there; not quite so many as of old, however. I saw one or two German travelers. But that mad rush of Germans across the border about which I read since returning was completely invisible.

"Nor could I find any trace of pro-German sentiment. I read from two to four daily papers every day. Neither headlines nor placing of news items, neither editorial policy nor news writing flavor partook in the least of partiality to the Central Powers. As a matter of fact, Mexico is and long has been distinctly pro-French.

"The truth is that the Mexicans are having a most interesting time just now with their own affairs. They have no time for foreign complications, unless such complications are forced upon them. With the exception of a fairly organized group of one or two thousand men led by Villa, there is now no opposition to the Government. In the South and along the mountains of the East there is banditry, but no war. The result is that the whole country now has time to devote its attention to politics. Political turmoil, along with a wide upheaval in the social realm, has brought the country into a state which combines the political turmoil of our period succeeding the Revolutionary War and the social confusion which in the South followed the war between the States.

"The paper-money epoch was coming to its climax during my visit last Fall. Two months later that climax was reached, and Mexico, instead of 'going broke,' as was generally expected, simply resumed specie payment. The paper disappeared and silver and gold coins appeared everywhere. The necessities of life now cost about what they do in this country.

"Anti-American sentiment is mostly a myth. As a matter of fact, Mexican sentiment is fundamentally pro-American, though you can't get a Mexican to admit it. Their anti-Americanism is more or less a pose, like the twisting of the lion's tail in this country."

The New York *Evening Post* of April 16th contained the following from Mr. Winton:

CONDITIONS IN MEXICO.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE EVENING POST:

SIR: Your ridicule of the wild tales from Mexico is well timed. Not only are you correct in saying that Mexico wants nothing so much as to be left alone, to devote her time to her own affairs, but you may go farther and affirm that except for political excitement Mexico's affairs are so stable as to justify no alarms. Villa is shut up to a limited mountainous area, remote from the vital centers of the republic. The hubbub he raised affects Mexican life in about the same degree that the Modoc War did our affairs. Zapata has been eliminated, and Felix Diaz never did count. He is called "Petticoat-Mauser" in Mexico, and is universally ridiculed. There is no denying the fact that Mexico is having warm politics. So-called "parties" are forming and reforming. The normal alignment of liberal and conservative is slow to take form, as just now all wish to be thought liberals. I spent the last days of March in Mexico City. A certain paper was making savage attacks on Obregon, Hill, and other Generals, charging them with the intention of perpetuating a military régime. The personal animus of these onslaughts was evident. I was not surprised, therefore, to learn on March 30 that Gen. Hill, Commandante in Mexico City, had arrested the editor and suppressed the paper *El Universal*. It was reported that he had had a stormy interview with President-elect Carranza. But the chief complaint that he and Gen. Obregon made was that their loyalty to the Constitutionalist party was being publicly impugned by a man who had less claims on Mr. Carranza's confidence than they. The total outcome of the episode, as I read it—and I had excellent facili-

(*Concluded on page* 16)

SPECIE PAYMENTS RESUMED

Financial Miracle Automatically Wrought in Mexico—Sudden Disappearance of Paper Money

One of the most remarkable of the many noteworthy occurrences in connection with the Revolution that has now so happily ended, and one which sets at naught all previously held ideas upon the subject, was the sudden and complete substitution of coin for paper as the circulating medium, and the entire disappearance of the latter. This came about automatically and without previous action or expressed intent on the part of the Government. It happened unexpectedly. More or less figuratively speaking, it was done "over night." To be exact, however, less than a week saw the disappearance of the paper and the appearance of gold and silver.

It has always been held as a principle of finance that when there are two classes of circulating medium, one of greater value than the other, the former is bound to disappear in favor of the latter. That is to say, if coin and paper not immediately exchangeable at par for specie are in existence, the coin must disappear. This was the case in the United States at the outbreak of the Civil War, and it has been the invariable experience of every country when the attempt has been made to issue paper currency which was not redeemable at its face value in specie upon demand.

A brief review of the currency situation of the past four years in Mexico is interesting in this connection as a preface to what may well be called the miraculous resumption of specie payments.

For the first time in the history of Mexico a successful conclusion was attained by a Revolution which began without money or munitions, which was prosecuted on the basis of paper carrying no promise of redemption and founded solely on the word of the revolutionists. Always heretofore there had been found available sufficient coin for such purposes, obtained in one manner or another. But when Governor Carranza and his scant hundred men began their opposition to the usurper Huerta, they had no resources of any kind. The money that purchased the first weapons and munitions was loaned by a prominent land owner of the State of Coahuila, and for several months the progress of the Revolution was hindered by the difficulty of obtaining what have so aptly been described as "the sinews of war."

Driven, therefore, by sheer necessity, the revolutionists began the issue of paper currency and with its aid the Revolution was prosecuted to final success. The first issue was made at Hermosillo, capital of the State of Sonora, and it found ready circulation at a value in American gold of 16 2/3 cents on the dollar, the par value being 50 cents. American bankers on the border freely exchanged it at that ratio, and its purchasing power (the real test of the value of any currency, specie or paper), was in accordance with the exchange value.

At that time the Constitutionalists were in control of but a small portion of the country, being practically confined to a limited extent of the Northern States. There was little probability that they would ever triumph, or that their currency would ever be worth anything more than so much waste paper. Yet it was freely accepted and circulated under these adverse and unpromising conditions at the rate mentioned—one-third of its face value. As time went on and the Constitutionalist forces gained victory after victory, taking over more and more territory, the paper increased of its own accord both in purchasing power and in gold exchange value, thus demonstrating its *bona fide* worth. In the months of July-August, 1914, when the Constitutionalists had obtained control of all Northern and most of Central Mexico, and were preparing for their final triumphant journey to any entry into the capital city, the paper reached an actual value of 33 1/3 cents gold to the dollar, the par value being 50 cents. Naturally enough there was a widely spread belief, founded upon the previous history of the currency as well as upon the logical sequence of events and the law of cause and effect, that when the new government should be established in the capital city, the value of the paper would reach par. There was every reason for this belief and such should logically have been the case had matters been allowed to take their own course as they had in the past.

But no account had been taken in this connection of the possible results of unfriendly speculative action. Up to the time of the first entry of the Constitutionalists into Mexico City there had been little or no speculation in the currency. It had been allowed to follow the law of its purchasing power and exchange value without artificial interference of any kind, and the result already noted had been achieved. The purchasing power of the paper as compared with its equivalent in gold was exactly equivalent to its exchange value.

But no sooner had the Government been established in Mexico City and this currency become the only legal circulating medium, the specie having dropped out of sight months before, than a horde of "bankers," speculators and money changers, seeing an opportunity for ill-gotten profit (ill-gotten because at the expense of the public), at once began making a plaything of the paper for their own benefit and with no regard for public welfare or justice. For a long time the banks of the city, with scarcely a single exception, if indeed there were one, had abandoned their legitimate functions and confined the major portion of their operations almost exclusively to speculation in the national currency as well as their own. They openly violated the law regarding their own paper emissions, refused to accept their own bills except at a heavy discount, would not pay depositors except at a ruinous loss to the latter, and if they had deliberately sought to demoralize the financial situation and embarrass the Government because of their well known and open opposition to it, they could not have followed a course better calculated to accomplish their apparent purpose. There were not wanting those among the revolutionary leaders who favored taking similar drastic measures in this direction to those adopted for the discouragement of counterfeiting—a firing squad and a stone wall!

But while the exchange value of the paper as arbitrarily maintained by the banks, fluctuating at their own sweet will, was so low, it was out of all proportion lower than its purchasing power. The rate of exchange depended altogether upon the necessity of the person seeking gold or its equivalent wherewith to meet foreign liabilities. During the period of wild speculation and artificial depression of nominal values as expressed in gold, the purchasing power of the paper was many times its exchange value. Foreigners in receipt of gold salaries found that their living expenses had never been so low. Indeed, it was scarcely believable that so small an amount of gold could be made to defray all expenses. Rents, provisions, hotel charges, restaurant prices were not more than one-eighth to one-tenth of their former standard in gold. The paper equivalent of ten or fifteen cents in gold paid for a meal that formerly cost from one to two dollars. Two dollars and a half in gold paid the monthly rental of an apartment or rooms that had cost $20 or $25, and so on through the entire list of living expenses. This was a demonstration of the fact that the exchange value of the paper was purely artificial and subject to no law except the caprice of the bankers and money changers. This was evident from the fact that during the height of the speculation in paper one bank by common consent was recognized as the arbiter of exchange, and was accustomed to telephone each morning to all the other banks announcing the rate that should be enforced during the day.

This antagonism to and depreciation of the paper currency continued until the ostensible value was well nigh infinitesimal. In sheer self-defense, dealers in the necessaries of life then began establishing two prices for their goods—one in paper and the other in national specie. The first was very high and the other correspondingly low. People in receipt of wages and salaries which were paid solely in paper, found themselves unable to meet the prices demanded in that medium. A day's wages were not sufficient to purchase the materials for a single meal for one person.

Finally in very desperation and under the stress of direct necessity, they began demanding of their employers that a part at least of their earnings should be paid in specie in order to enable them to ward off starvation. The situation had become intolerable and a change of some kind was imperative. As a measure of necessity the employers acceded to the demands of their employes and began paying a part of their earnings in coin. It had been supposed and frequently asserted that there was little or no specie left in the

(Concluded on page 13)

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

As Witnessed by an American Visitor—An Orderly and Dignified Affair, Preceded and Accompanied by the Most Intense Interest

The first election in which the entire population of the Republic of Mexico had an untrammeled opportunity to participate, and in which they did take part in every State and Territory with a single small exception, took place on Sunday, March 11th, of the current year.

It is true, the election which resulted in the choice of Francisco I. Madero as President was an open and free one, but it was conducted to a large extent by officials who held over from the Diaz régime, and as a result the greater portion of those eligible to the franchise, having in mind the manner of conducting the farcical so-called "elections" of that period, were slow in taking part. They could not accustom themselves on a moment's notice to so complete a reversal of the usual methods in this connection. Not more than one-fourth as many votes were cast at that election as was the case in the one of March 11th.

The method, too, was different. Under the old law, municipalities and small groups of a few voters cast their ballots for presidential electors, the number of such officials not being limited, and these in turn met in each State, balloted for President and Vice-President and certified the result to the National Congress, which in turn canvassed the returns and made final announcement of the successful candidates. It was because of this cumbersome system that the report found circulation and belief in foreign countries that less than twenty thousand votes all told were cast for President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez, whereas as a matter of fact there were several hundred thousand ballots deposited by voters for them.

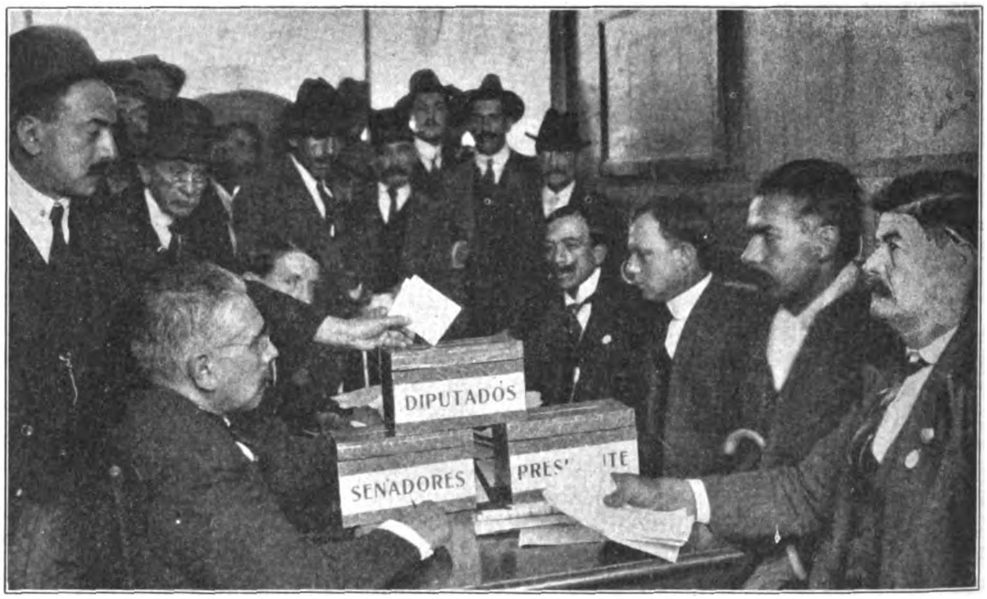
In the election just held, the system of direct balloting was adopted, as provided under the new Constitution. Each voter was provided with a ballot solely for a Presidential candidate, there being no Vice-President under the present organic law. A blank line was left on the ticket whereon the voter either wrote or had written for him the name of his favorite candidate. No names were printed on the ballots and all were free to insert any they saw fit. As a result, while there was only one candidate formally presented, thousands of votes were cast for others, as the official returns disclosed.

The city of Mexico was, of course, the center of interest, since here is gathered the largest population in the country—600,000 as it is now estimated.

Besides the President, there were elected at the same time members of the Senate and of the Chamber of Deputies. In all, twenty-four were chosen in the city. And for these two dozen positions there were over six hundred candidates!

As may be imagined, there was a decidedly lively campaign during the month immediately preceding the election. Political clubs were organized by the score. Torchlight processions, bands, banners and public speaking were indulged in to the fullest. There was no attempt to hamper or obstruct the public in this connection in any way. Any one could announce himself as a candidate, organize his own club, hire his own hall, engage his own band, parade the streets with his adherents and hold a public meeting in any of the plazas of the city. On the great Zocalo, in front of the National Palace, there were to be seen of an evening three or four different meetings in support of as many separate candidates, yet all conducted with the greatest good humor and without clash of any kind. In fact, the appearance of the city during the campaign was that of a good old-fashioned American political contest of the warmest kind. It was the first time the country had experienced anything of the sort, and the utmost advantage was taken of it. It was a novel privilege and enjoyed to the fullest by the entire population.

The writer passed a large part of election day with some companions in going from polling place to polling place throughout the city and its suburbs, halting at many in order to observe the procedure. The greatest order and decorum prevailed. It was a serious business and the participants all recognized this fact. All classes of society were represented, from the peon to the mechanic, the business and professional man and the landed proprietor. Here were laborers who had for the moment left their toil, for many construction workers of one kind and another were busy on Sunday as on any other day upon matters of urgency. With hands and clothing toil-stained and grimy, they wrote their ballots, gave their names to the registry clerks, had them verified by the lists, and closely watched the tickets being deposited in the boxes—exactly as is done in the United States. There were three boxes—one for President, one for senators and one for deputies in Congress. There was no hurry, no excitement, no discussion. Each voter took his turn, and the procedure was expeditious and orderly. Remarkably enough, very few voters were noted who were obliged to ask the assistance of others in writing the names of candidates on their ballots. Indeed, it was a surprise to see the number of the peon and laboring classes who were able to prepare their own tickets. There were no inclosed booths for this purpose, everything being conducted publicly and without concealment. Each voter, after securing his blank ballot, stepped to one side, held it against a wall or laid it on any surface that offered, and wrote the name of his favorite. Then he took his place in line and went through the process of voting.



Polling Place in Mexico City—No Police, No Soldiers

Notable was the entire absence of either police or military. Strict orders had been given that soldiers desiring to participate must not bear arms in or about the polling places, and in one case where an officer appeared wearing a revolver on the outside of his coat, the weapon was taken from him and he was firmly ejected, after his attention had been called to the regulation governing such cases. There were no police in or adjacent to any polling place of the many visited, nothing more than the usual patrol of such officials being seen on their customary beats.

Candidates and their friends went about with banner-decorated automobiles, gathering up voters and carrying them to the polling places, exactly as is the custom in the United States. But of any sign of disturbance, any disposition to interfere with the orderly conduct of the affair—an affair of tremendous importance in Mexico, as it was the first general event of the kind ever witnessed—there was nothing to be seen.

The election officers were no respecters of persons. Cabinet officer, General and peon—all looked alike to them. There was a very stringent regulation that no person not on the registry lists should be allowed to vote except after careful identification and proof of the right to do so. One cabinet officer found upon

THE MINING LAW

Department of Fomento Issues Instructions for the Forfeiture of Concessions When the Law is Not Obeyed

The Department of Fomento has issued the following important circular to all mining agents throughout the Republic:

By the decree of September 14, 1916, issued by the First Chief, the penalty of cancellation was declared for those concessions whose holders did not resume operations on their mining claims under the terms of the said decree, fixing a period of two months under which they might do so, which period was afterwards prolonged, by Circular No. 22 of this Department, until the 14th day of February.

Acting in accordance, many concessionaires have resumed work. Others have asked for more time in which to do so, and a third group have incurred the penalty of cancellation of their concessions. These last, by order of the First Chief, are subject to intervention on the part of the Department of Finance, until such time as the Department of Fomento declares the cancellation of the respective concessions.

Constitutional Congress in Session at Queretaro

Complying with the decision of the First Chief, under date of February 16th, and in order to proceed with justness to all concerned, this Department has made the following rulings regarding each of the groups mentioned:

First Group.—Concessionaires who have resumed operations.

1st. Concessionaires who have not already done so must present proofs to this Department before the first day of April next, with the respective receipts and certificates, to the effect that their taxes are paid to date.

2d. Before the first of April next, they must render a report either directly to this Department or to the respective Mining Agent, covering each of their mines, containing a description of the work being carried on, both above and below ground, in the following terms:

a. Name of the mine; name of the original concessionaire; name of the present holder; location of the mine; boundaries, area, number of the title; number of the register; principal mineral worked, and metals and metalloids produced. This data must be accompanied by plan of the mine.

b. A clear and detailed explanation of all the development work being done at present. In case development work is being carried on in a group of mines in such a manner as to affect two or more claims, a plan must accompany the report giving a clear idea of the project, in order that this Department may determine which of the claims are covered by the work in question.

c. Number of employees and laborers, hours of work, salaries and wages, centers of population which provide laborers for the mine.

d. Motors used: whether steam, hydraulic, gas, electric, etc.

e. Machinery used in the work of exploitation, ventilation and drainage, and in the preparation and treatment of the minerals.

f. System of exploitation and treatment used.

g. Production of mineral, giving the amount shipped out and the amount treated at the mine. Values in minerals exported and those treated.

h. Stock on hand of the principal materials used in exploitation and treatment of minerals, such as steel, explosives, lubricants, timber, cyanide, zinc, fluxes combustibles, etc.

3d. The concessionaire must give his nationality. In the case of companies, it must be stated whethe ror not they are organized according to the laws of this country.

Second Group.—Concessionaires who have asked for more time in order to comply with the decree of September 14.

1st. Those who have not already done so must present proofs to this department before the 20th day of March, with the respective receipts and certificates, to the effect that their taxes are paid to date.

2d. If the petitions do not specify the claims to which they refer, this information should be furnished, together with a report on each claim, giving the following details:

a. Name of the claim; name of the original concessionaire; name of the present holder; location of the mine; boundaries, area, number of the title, number of the register, principal ore worked, and the metals or metalloids produced. This date must be accompanied by an authentic plan of the mine.

b. A report of the work being done before operations were suspended, giving the number of employees and laborers, hours of work, salaries and wages, and centers of population which provide laborers.

3d. They will indicate their nationality. In the case of companies, it must be stated whether or not they are organized according to the laws of the country.

4th. These requisites having been fulfilled, and taking into consideration the reasons given in the petition, and the general conditions in the zone in which the mine is located, this department will fix a maximum period within which work must be renewed or begun.

Third Group.—Concessionaires who have not complied with the decree in question.

1st. As all the concessionaires included in this group have incurred the penalty of cancellation of their concessions, this department will shortly remit to the Department of Finance a detailed list of the mining claims in question, in order that same may be intervened.

2d. During the period of intervention and up to such time as this departmen declares the concession forfeited, the interested parties may save same by manifesting to this department the reasons why they have not complied with the decree; their intention of working the mine in question; the elements with which they count to do so, and the fixed time they need; with the object that in case this department finds the reasons given to be good, and the securities given for working the mine sufficient, the matter will be presented to the consideration of the First Chief, in order that he may decide whether or not the concession should be cancelled.

3d. In order that this petition receive consideration it must be accompanied by proofs that taxes have been paid to date.

4th. The petition should furnish the following data:

a. Name of the mine, name of the original concessionaire, name of the present holder, location of the mine, boundaries, area, title number, register number, principal ore worked and meals and mealloids produced. This data should be accompanied by an authentic plan of the mine.

b. A report of the work done before suspension, giving the number of employees and laborers, hours of work, salaries and wages, and centers of populaion which provide laborers.

5th. They must indicate their nationality. In he case of companies it must be stated whether or not they are organized according to the laws of the country.

There exists another group of miners who, in accordance with Circular No. 25 issued by the First Chief on the 20th of April, 1914, have obtained permission from this department to work their claims before securing title. These are obliged.

1st. To render before the first day of April next, a report of the work started, giving number of employees and laborers actually working, plan of the work to be done, what class of power is used, what kind of ma-

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examination that his name had by some oversight been omitted from the list. Although his personality was perfectly well known to the officials, he was required to make proof demanded by the law before he was permitted to cast his ballot. He was treated exactly as was the humblest peon.

The whole affair—the campaign and the election—were indeed an object-lesson in their testimony to the ability of the Mexican people to select their own officials in an intelligent, orderly and highly enlightening fashion. The election methods of Mexico might well be followed in communities which sometimes arrogate to themselves the possession of the most ultra type of civilization and culture.

SEEN IN A MEXICAN PLAZA

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

Away out on the edge of things in the State of "Coahuila and Zaragosa," far to the south of the Rio Grande, is the picturesque, thoroughly typical little town of Cuatro Cienegas—"Four Meadows." The meadows are there all right, though not immediately apparent to the newcomer. But keen sportsmen with an eye to a bag of ducks, geese or other feathered game know very well their location—and are quite apt to keep that knowledge to themselves—though the friendly engineer who halts the train an hour or two to let some of his passengers shoot a goodly bunch of birds does not come under that category.

The name is a pretty one—pretty to a degree, as well as appropriate; rolls smoothly from the tongue of the native, as also from that of the foreigner—after he knows how. It is a pretty place, too—if you like places that are "different"; that are dusty as becomes a locality where no rain falls on occasion for over two years at a stretch—where it may be said of a truth that "there falls not either rain or hail or snow"; but which nevertheless has vineyards and orchards and gardens and flowers regardless of such trifling natural vagaries as absence of rain—deriving their life from a tumbling, dashing, noisy, attractive mountain torrent.

A pretty location—mostly desert, though that fact makes the gardens all the more attractive. And incidentally one can readily possess himself of a loaf and a jug (of not bad native wine), and a tree in the desert—without going more than a mile or two from town—as also with an attractive "thou," native or otherwise, if he be disposed to follow the poet literally and with exactness—also with poetic license.

It is, in a sentence, a place where one can loaf and invite his soul, if he be in the loafing mood and if perchance he have a soul; and if he be a foreigner, the only one in the town, and have but a few words of the vernacular—just enough to eat and drink and on occasion swear by—he can surely loaf and invite his soul to his soul's content—and more, too! Sometimes altogether too much—and then some!

Being, let us say (as was the writer), the only foreigner in town, none of the natives with a single exception speaking English; with one's eyes in such a state that the physician had been obliged to pass sentence of "No reading"; with only sufficient sporadic business to keep one occupied a few days each month—all too few for comfort of mind or body—what resource was left?

We shall see.

The only "loafing place" in a Mexican town is the plaza—barring, of course, the cantinas, as saloons are called.

Wise in his day and generation, knowing that "breathing spots" are as essential almost as eating or drinking spots, the Spanish pioneer, in planning a town, always lays out the breathing spot first. He delineates this on broad and ample lines, and surrounds the plaza with buildings as a secondary consideration. Land may become valuable in time, the eyes of "business"—not native eyes—may be turned covetously on the plaza, but it is useless. The Spaniard or Mexican would part with the patio of his house as soon as with the plaza of his town.

So to the plaza all the idle and unemployed and infirm turn—and, anxious to follow the custom of the country, if for no other reason, thither went the writer to pass the long, weary hours between daylight and what hour far into the night when sleep at last drove him to his cot—literally cot—a spring mattress supported on two wooden "horses," in a bare, sparsely furnished room of an ancient stone structure made historical from the fact that during one of the violent revolutions of the past century four men sheltered therein held at bay a force of two hundred soldiers, killing and wounding many of them, and only succumbing when hunger, thirst and wounds made further resistance no longer possible.

DE LA LUZ ROSAS.
RRIAGA. BERNARDO COUTO.
EJO GARCIA CONDE.

First Chief Carranza Addressing the Queretaro Congress

Like most plazas, this was a perfect jungle of trees, shrubbery, grass and flowers. The pathways diverged from the center like the spokes of a wheel, while the great trees met overhead, affording perfect protection from the sun's rays, as also ample and most desirable accommodation for all who desire to take their afternoon's siesta on the benches disposed along the tree-bordered walks. The ground was laid out in flower beds in genuine hit-or-miss fashion, intersected by irrigation ducts of the smallest. These beds were a mass of violets, purple fleur-de-lis, roses, geraniums and what not. The roses were a new variety to me—genuine products or Arabia, I was told. Certainly, I had never seen their like or their equal even in that land so favored of roses—California. With large petals, semi-double, of the most beautifully delicate shell-like pink, shading into translucent white near the heart, and of a sweetness indescribable, they were easily the queen of the entire rose family. The delicate, evanescent scent was borne on the gentle breezes to an unbelievable distance, and to sit near the rose thickets and inhale the exquisite odors was to make one dream he was indeed in Araby the blest. And the violets! In the deep shade of the shrubbery, in rich soil kept moist by the constantly flowing irrigation rivulets, the plants grew heavy and dense, while the blossoms were luxuriant and odorous far beyond anything known in less favored climes. They seemed to exhale the very quintessence and concentration of countless millions that had gone before. I never inhale the odor of roses or violets but the memory of the flower beds of the Cuatro Cienegas plaza, all the more attractive because of the very irregularity of their arrangement, comes back with overwhelming force, and I long to sit and dream the idle hours away as I so often sat and dreamed. It seems now as if it had never been anything but a dream!!

A STRANGE BUSINESS

To the plaza then! And since, as will be shown, "business" required that an eye be kept on the main highway leading to the desert region to the west, and on the opposite side of the encircling range of rugged mountains, a bench was selected beneath the thick shade of a china-berry tree just across from the church between which and the plaza passed the highway aforesaid. This bench, by the way, soon became recognized as the especial private appanage of "El Gringo," as I quickly became known far and near (not, by the way, as an expression of contempt and unfriendliness, but merely because I was *the* Gringo, the only stranger, in the town), and few ventured to occupy it even during my temporary absence.

The "business" referred to was the receipt and shipment to the factory of quantities of the wonderful rubber producing shrub called "guayule," a desert growth once regarded as worthless, but which in a few short years brought wealth to so many of the land owners and speculators of Northern Mexico. This was gathered in a region a hundred miles and more to the northwest in the heart of the desert, was baled and hauled on wagons by mules to the nearest railroad point, which, in this case, was the town of Cuatro Cienegas. There being no means of communication with the guayule region, and locomotion by mule power being necessarily slow and uncertain in such a country, the arrival of the wagon trains, made up of twenty great vehicles drawn by hosts of mules (attached to the wagons, by the way, in strange and incomprehensible fashion—two "on the wheels," five "in the swing," and four "in the lead.") was all a matter of chance. So from daylight until dark it was the writer's cheerful business to sit on the bench described, walk out into the middle of the road at intervals of twenty minutes to half an hour, and look up the highway some mile and a half to a point where it left a defile in the mountains and debouched upon the plain. The instant a cloud of dust appeared in the distance of sufficient volume to denote the possible advent of a wagon train—though it might be a band of cattle or sheep, or a train of donkeys, or anything except the expected guayule shipment—a coach was requisitioned. A coach in Mexico, by the way, is any kind of a vehicle that carries passengers, from a half-spring Studebaker wagon to the finest product of a French carriage maker of the last century. In the coach a hasty trip was made up the road to meet the supposed train, though three out of four or more of such journeys were fruitless, as there were several people engaged in the same business and many trains were on the road. Still there was more or less uncertainty connected with the affair, and as the wagon trains awaited by me averaged about three trips every two months, the monotonous character of the daily watch and examination of the road may perhaps be imagined. Certainly it would require a violent stretch of the imagination to suppose there was any undue excitement connected with the "business."

THE EDUCATED CROW THAT PLAYED THE PIANO

The only resource then was to become interested in the life that went on in and around the plaza. One might well be excused for fancying that in a place of no more than three or four thousand inhabitants, where every one was securely housed by eight in the evening, not much of interest could be found even from the vantage point of the center of the town's activities—the plaza.

But not so!

As will be shown, there was an abundance of interest, if one but looked for it.

The first acquaintance made was a crow—a jet black crow! And it was a friendly sort of bird, too. One of the choice products of this region is the pecan nut, and the writer being fond of them frequently filled his pocket with a quantity of already cracked ones, and consumed them while waiting for the long expected wagon trains. Not long after he began his daylight, nut-consuming vigil, one afternoon a crow alighted on the edge of the gutter a dozen or fifteen feet from the settee. He cocked his head first on one side, then on the other, darted his bright eyes at the stranger, and after due consideration evidently concluded that nothing was to be feared. Besides, he liked pecans himself! So he hopped a foot or two at a time across the sidewalk nearer and nearer until he reached the opposite end of the settee. Then after a quick glance of appraisement he hopped onto the seat, and then to the top rail. Then he slowly sidled along, watching closely for the first sign of enmity or interference. But care was taken not to alarm the bird and he finally approached nearer and nearer until at last within touching distance. A pecan held out in the open hand was grabbed like a flash, the crow made a short flight to safety, and then stood on the ground while he ate the nut, afterwards coming back for more. Friendship thus established, soon we were chums and greatly enjoyed our communion. Incidentally the crow enjoyed the pecans!

Not long after it was learned that the bird was the pet of the young daughter of a hotel keeper. After expressing curiosity about the friendly crow, I was amazed when I was told that it had actually been taught to pick out an air on the piano with its bill, and upon evincing incredulity I was invited to witness the proof—which I did, and saw with my own eyes and heard with my own ears the wonderful performance. And the crow appeared to appreciate the fact that his piano feat was unique. He cocked his head on one side, almost laughed aloud, and his attitude just as plainly said "I am *some* crow, am I not?" as if he had uttered the actual words.

But the bird developed a habit which finally led to his banishment. The hotel in question, like the majority of houses in the smaller towns, had no windows such as are known in this country. The window openings were protected with perpendicular iron bars, and inside were solid shutters of wood, which were left open except at night. The crow made a practice of flying into the windows through the bars, picking up any shining object from table or bureau, flying out with it in his beak, taking it over to the "hoozegow," or local jail on the other side of the plaza, and carefully depositing it in a letter box that was fastened by the side of the door. By the way, the word quoted was long a puzzler. Having lived many years in California, it seemed to me to have a distinctive Chinese flavor, and as it was usually pronounced no clue was afforded to its actual etymology. "Hoozegow?" What did it mean? After awhile inquiry developed the fact that the word was "Juzgado" (court or jail), corrupted by common usage into "hoozegow."

The crow became such a nuisance and was the cause of so much complaint on the part of the guests at the hotel, that he was finally donated to a botanical and zoological garden in the city of Monterrey greatly to the regret of those who had enjoyed his friendship and his antics. But he was a fund of amusement for a long time, and helped many a weary hour to pass agreeably.

Specie Payments Resumed

(*Concluded from page 9*)

country—that it had all been shipped to foreign lands during the Revolution. But the event disproved this idea. With the urgent necessity for specie, the coin made its appearance and went at once into general circulation. It was impossible to hoard it, since it was needed to defray the daily expenses of sustenance. Consequently it remained in sight and was freely passed from hand to hand.

Following the example of the private employers, the Government next adopted the plan of paying all employes a portion of their earnings in specie, and in an incredibly brief period—less than one week—the paper had disappeared from the channels of commerce and its place was taken by gold and silver coin. The change was the result of a spontaneous movement by the people, without outside interference of any kind by the Government or the banks.

The national mint was then put into the fullest possible operation and began turning out over half a million dollars daily, which went at once into circulation. The clink of coin was heard on every hand. It is a fact that there is more gold in circulation at the present time than even before the Revolution, while the streets of the capital city present the same sights so familiar in San Francisco during the old "steamer days"—men passing along the public thoroughfares carrying great sacks of gold and silver coin on their shoulders as they go from place to place, liquidating their obligations.

No one was more surprised than many of the revolutionary leaders themselves at the miraculous disappearance of the paper currency and its replacement with coin. This happy event gives further encouragement to the belief that if left alone long enough Mexico can rehabilitate her own finances from her own resources. It also gives a full denial to the assertion, so widely published and generally believed, that the country is penniless, with no resources, and on the verge of bankruptcy.

Announcement is made that telegraphic communication is now in regular operation with all portions of Northern Mexico and the frontier.

The salaries of all the employees of the Government of the State of Chihuahua have been materially augmented on account of the high prices of the necessaries of life in that section of the Republic.

A careful study is being made of the most desirable form for the establishment of a bank under Government auspices which shall have the sole right to issue notes, supporting which shall be a specie reserve sufficient to maintain their value at par through their redemption on demand at all times, as required by the national banking law, but which has been violated without exception for an extended period by every bank of emission in the country.

Hotel McAlpine, New York

UNA EXCURSION POR LAS AMERICAS.

[NOTE—The journey appearing in the pages of THE REVIEW is for the assistance of those studying Spanish. It pretends to nothing more than simple, every-day conversation, about the things every traveler encounters. If it is studied, practiced aloud, and remembered, it will be helpful to any one taking a similar trip. It commenced in the February issue of the magazine.]

Saliendo del Tren, en la Ciudad de Nueva York

PART III

Srta. Molinera: ¡Por fin, estoy en la gran ciudad de Nueva York!

Srta. Andreola: ¿No había estado usted aquí antes?

Srta. Molinera: ¡Jamás! Asombroso, ¿no es así?

Srta. Andreola: Así me parece, para un viajera americana.

Srta. Molinera: Mis viajes han sido por el Oeste.

Sr. Beltrán: ¡El Gran Oeste! que todo Oriental debiera visitar!

Sr. Semanas: Aquí está el *auto,* amigos.

Srta. Molinera: Estamos listos.

Srta. López: Estamos en Nueva York, pero ¿a dónde nos dirigimos ahora?

Sr. Beltrán: Señor Semanas, ¿a qué hotel vamos?

Sr. Semanas: Ese es mi secreto; el chauffeur sabe.

Srta. López: ¿Cuándo se lo dijo?

Sr. Semanas: Se lo susurré (cuchicheé) hace un momento.

Llegados al Hotel

Sr. Beltrán: ¿Nos paramos aquí?

Sr. Semanas: ¿Están ustedes sorprendidos?

Srta. López: ¡No sólo sorprendidos, sino complacidos!

Srta. Andreola: Tiene buen aspecto, pero los hoteles son todos prácticamente parecidos.

Sr. Beltrán: ¡No éste, por cierto!

Sr. Semanas (al Portero): Conduzca las Señoritas al salón.

Portero: ¿A qué salón, Señor?

Sr. Semanas: ¡Al primer salón, aquí!

Srta. López: ¿Vendrá usted allí por nosotros?

Sr. Semanas: Sí, Señorita; dentro de diez minutos.

En el Salón de las Señoras

Srta. Molinera: Mucho hotel es éste, ¿no es así?

Srta. Andreola: Es, en realidad, de gran lujo.

Srta. López: Esta silla me agrada.

Sr. Beltrán: Usted se pierde en ella; es demasiado grande para usted.

Srta. López: ¡No se la daré a usted, caballero!

Srta. Molinera: ¡Allí viene el Señor Semanas!

Sr. Semanas: Aquí estoy. Todo está ya arreglado. El portero les conducirá a sus respectivos cuartos.

Sr. Beltrán: ¿En qué piso?

Sr. Semanas: En el piso nueve, por supuesto. ¿No somos huéspedes extranjeros?

Srta. López: ¡Como arreglado por el Señor Semanas!

Srta. Andreola: ¿Qué es "arreglado por el Señor Semanas?"

Srta. López: Vamos a estar en el piso en que se habla español.

Foreign Department, Hotel McAlpine

Sr. Semanas: ¡Naturalmente! Ustedes desean hablar español, ¿no es así?

Srta. Andreola: ¡Cada minuto!

Sr. Semanas: Bien, no oirán ustedes otra cosa en aquel piso.

Srta. Molinera: ¡Hum! Si mi lengua se enrosca en el español—

Sr. Beltrán: ¿Qué hará usted?

Srta. Molinera: Explicar mi significado a mis agradables ayudantes en "el inglés enroscado."

Sr. Semanas: El Señor Beltrán y yo las dejamos ahora.

Srta. López: Muy bien. ¿A qué hora les veremos en el almuerzo?

Sr. Semanas: A las nueve. ¿Será demasiado temprano?

Sr. Beltrán: ¡A mí me place!

Srta. Andreola: Y a todas nosotras.

Sr. Semanas: Señoritas, hallarán sus cuartos comunicados. El té les será servido allí, antes de que se retiren.

Srta. Molinera: De veras que le agradecemos tantas bondades y atento cuidado por nuestra comodidad.

Sr. Semanas: ¡De nada, Señoritas!

Srta. Andreola: ¡Hasta mañana!

Sr. Beltrán: ¡Mañana por la mañana!

Srta. López: ¡Que ustedes ambos descansen bien; buenas noches!

Sr. Beltrán (a la Señorita López): Usted es Señorita de negocios.

Srta. López: Sí; ¿pero qué?

Sr. Beltrán: Usted y yo debemos visitar el Departamento Extranjero del Hotel, después del almuerzo.

Srta. Molinera: Ciertamente les acompañaré.

Srta. Andreola: Y también yo.

Sr. Semanas: ¡Bueno! después de eso, saldremos para nuestra visita a la Sociedad Hispana de América ("Hispanic Society of America").

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B. F. Inman

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LATEST NEWS NOTES

Elections for Governors of various States have been called, the dates for holding them varying as to locality and circumstance.

During the first three weeks of March over five thousand parcel-post packages were received by Mexican border postoffices from the United States.

The smelters at Torreon, Coahuila, and Matehuala, San Luís Potosí, have resumed operations, lack of fuel having in the past delayed work therein.

The operations of the Comisión Reguladora del Mercado de Henequén in the State of Yucatán now amount to an average of over one million dollars daily.

A labor code is being prepared by the Department of Fomento for submission to Congress, based upon the new provision in the Constitution governing such matters.

A new wireless telegraph station has been established by the Government at Guadalajara, which is in communication with other stations in all portions of the Republic.

It is proposed to create a permanent National Educational Congress, holding regular sessions at stated intervals, for the purpose of dealing with all educational questions.

The collections of customs at the Port of Vera Cruz for the first twenty days of March were over one million dollars in gold, a considerable increase over previous records.

On April 1st an additional number of petroleum companies had their concessions forfeited for failure to comply with the laws regarding the payment of inspection taxes.

Work is being pushed on the railway extension from Canitas, in the State of Zacatecas, to Durango City, and it is expected that within a brief period it will be opened for traffic.

A number of locomotives and a quantity of rolling stock have been secured by the Tehuantepec Railway and traffic conditions on that line have been correspondingly bettered.

It is proposed to create a national fund for the construction of irrigation and hydraulic works in order to reclaim large bodies of fertile land that are at present idle from lack of water.

In order to accommodate the suburban population in the vicinity of Mexico City, the Postoffice Department has established mail boxes on the electric cars running to adjacent villages.

M. N. Morales has been appointed Mexican Consul at Kansas City, Mo., and has taken charge of that office. There are over twenty thousand of his fellow-countrymen in his district.

Augusto Aillaud has been appointed National Treasurer, to succeed Mr. Nicefero Zambrano, who resigned in order to become a candidate for Governor of the State of Nuevo León.

Records of property transactions in the Public Registry Division of the City of Mexico for the month of March amounted to $11,546,000, an increase of three millions over the previous month.

Through the wireless station at Chapultepec, communication is now effected between Houston, Texas, and the Isthmus of Panamá, the facilities of the relay having been extended for that purpose.

The collections of customs at Agua Prieta, Sonora, for the months of February and March amounted to over two million dollars, a very large increase over previous business at that point, which is a comparatively small place.

Construction work is being commenced on the railway from Santa Lucrecia, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, to Campeche, and thence to connection with Mérida and other points in Yucatán.

Under the direction of Sub-Secretary Berlanga, of the Department of Gobernación, a number of shops for the industrial training of orphans have been established in the asylums of Mexico City.

Railroad traffic between Mexico City and the border, by way of Torreon, Chihuahua and Juarez, has been restored, the line having been put in good condition, bridges rebuilt, and other repairs made.

Four new agricultural experimental stations have been established in various localities under the direction of the Department of Fomento, where instruction will be given in advanced methods of cultivation.

Reports from all portions of the Republic show that the coming crops of grain, etc., promise to be the largest ever produced. The restoration of the community lands and their cultivation has much to do with this.

Official reports from the State of Guanajuato are to the effect that the greater portion of the mines in that region are now in full operation, employing many thousands of laborers and producing large amounts of bullion.

Within the first month after the removal of the import duty from automobiles, over two thousand machines were received in the Republic from the United States. A great stimulus has been given to the business on this account.

A congress of textile workers from all portions of the Republic has been called to meet in the city of Mexico on May 2d for the purpose of dealing with questions of wages, etc., and securing uniform treatment in all such establishments.

The Aguila Petroleum Company (the Pearson interests) have been granted permission by the Department of Fomento to sink several new wells in the States of Chiapas and Vera Cruz, having complied with the new laws governing such matters.

Alberto J. Pani, who has been at the head of the National railway lines for a lengthy period, has been appointed Secretary of the new Department of Industry and Commerce, one of the two divisions recently made of the former Department of Fomento.

A plant for the manufacture of sulphuric acid is to be established in Guanajuato, and there is said to be material at hand and ready of access sufficient to produce three million tons of this valuable material, which has in the past been largely imported from Europe.

An extension to the national mint has been constructed, in order to accommodate the large force necessary for the operation of the coining machinery at its fullest capacity. A constant supply of both gold and silver bullion is being received and the production is greater than ever before known.

The daily press continues to publish with regularity news of the restoration of community lands to their ancient and rightful owners in all portions of the Republic. Hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile lands have thus been returned and are being utilized for the production of crops.

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The Mining Law

(Concluded from page 11)

chinery they have, what ores are worked, how much ore is mined and what are the values obtained.

2d. To present proofs, within the same length of time to this department, with the corresponding receipts and certificates, that the taxes are paid to date.

3d. The report should give the following general data:

a. Name of the mine, name of the applicant, location of the mine, boundaries, area, number of the provisional title, registry number, ores worked and metals and metalloids produced.

b. Nationality of the applicant. In the case of companies, whether or not they are organized according to th elaws of the country.

Punishment For Libel and Falsehood

A decree went into effect on April 15th providing punishment of a fine of from $50 to $500, or imprisonment from one to eleven months, for slander, libel or the issuance of false or distorted information. Newspaper chiefs are held strictly accountable, as are all their employes who handle news, including printers, provided they are cognizant of its character. The decree prohibits malicious expressions calculated to excite hatred of the authorities, the army, national guard, or fundamental institutions of the country. It also prohibits manifestations against friendly nations, their executives or their legitimate representatives in Mexico. The publication of news which the authorities decide is against the public good is forbidden.

Work has been commenced on the improvement of the Grand Canal, which drains the Valley of Mexico, and which during the revolutionary period had been allowed in some localities to fall into disrepair.

Active preparations are being made by the Department of Communications for the dredging of the Panuco river in order to provide ample accommodations for the constantly increasing traffic of the port of Tampico.

The authorities of the City of Mexico have prohibited dice or domino games in any of the saloons of the capital, as being contrary to public morals. In the past these have been favorite sports with a certain class.

Instructions have been sent on the authority of the First Chief to all the local agragrian commissions that they shall first address themselves to the restoration of the "ejidos" or community lands, to their rightful owners before taking other steps in the solution of the land problem.

Notice has been given that hereafter no employes of the Federal Government will be permitted to draw any portion of their salaries in advance of the date when due. Neither will money lenders be allowed to carry on their operations in the paymasters' offices.

GEORGE WILSON
Mines, Oil Lands
Correspondence Solicited
P. O. Box 1677 Mexico, D. F.

Restitution of Public Lands

The National Agrarian Commission has issued the following circular in regard to the distribution and development of lands under its control:

"Circular Number 20—The National Agrarian Commission, by order of the First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army in charge of the executive power of the nation, has seen fit to issue a circular modifying radically the sections I, III and IV of circular 3, of date of the 5th of May, 1916, which sections express and carry out the objects of Article 27 of the Constitution of 1917.

"In conformity with Article 11 of the law above mentioned, the lands to be divided and cut up for the benefit of small cultivators will be fully paid for by the Government, or for such parts only as are taken up by *bona fide* cultivators. Applicants for lands of this sort will be allowed only fifty hectares, and those who have already taken up such areas and registered the same with the Government, will be fully protected as to their rights, at the same time the Government stands ready to reimburse the owners thereof.

"I. In conformity with Article II of the law mentioned, the lands that will be provisionally enjoyed by the people in common will be only such parts as are granted under the new law, and will only remain in the possession of the new owners so long as they respect the new law in regard to the intensive cultivation of such land. Any laziness or failure on the part of the new proprietors, will be visited with forfeiture of their farms.

"III. If within the new territory above mentioned, which the Government has seen fit to donate to the people, there should exist a respectable population of small proprietors, cultivating granges of fifty hectares or less, such proprietor will not only be fully protected, but the original owners will also be indemnified.

"IV. If the people thus settled on the lands of large estates manifest a disposition to make the best of their opportunities, and to engage in intensive and productive agriculture, they shall be protected to the full extent of the law, and should the owner of the area thus appropriated petition the Government for restitution, he shall be awarded not less than fifty hectares, nor will this area cover any of the improvements made by the new settlers."

THE rates of payment of railway shop employes as determined upon by the recent congress of delegates from all portions of the Republic, held in Mexico City, are as follows: First-class mechanics, 69 cents per hour; second-class, 56 cents; third-class, 40 cents; assistants, 22 to 25 cents an hour.

A LARGE number of working men who had been obliged to leave their homes in the State of Morelos because of the persecutions of wandering Zapatista brigands have been given employment by the Government on lands in the Federal District which have been taken over by the authorities for one cause or another.

Clear Statement

(*Concluded from page* 8)

ties for knowing the facts—was that the real leaders of the revolutionary party, military and others, were driven closer together and into a closer unity with Mr. Carranza. Yet by the time I reached the American border I was gravely assured that Mr. Carranza was himself under arrest! I regret to say that our own countrymen in Mexico are responsible for most of these fantastic dreams. Many of them seemed to me like men who had lost their sanity. A fellow traveller of my company, who, because of his ignorance of Spanish, spent most of his time among them, came to me every day or two with a new tale. I could scarcely prevail on him to stay till he had finished his business. He did stay, and nothing at all happened to him. The Mexicans are very busy trying to construct a government on more modern lines. They have no sympathy with Germany. If they had they are too wise to alienate a powerful next-door neighbor with whom they wish to be at peace and to do business.

G. B. WINTON.

NEW YORK, April. 13.

THE REVIEW desires to congratulate Mr. Winton upon his clear understanding of the Mexican situation and his forceful manner of presenting the facts. It is indeed refreshing to find a traveler who knows the truth when he sees it and who is not afraid to tell it at every opportunity.

The industrial school for orphans in the City of Mexico has been reorganized and put upon a thoroughly efficient modern basis.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

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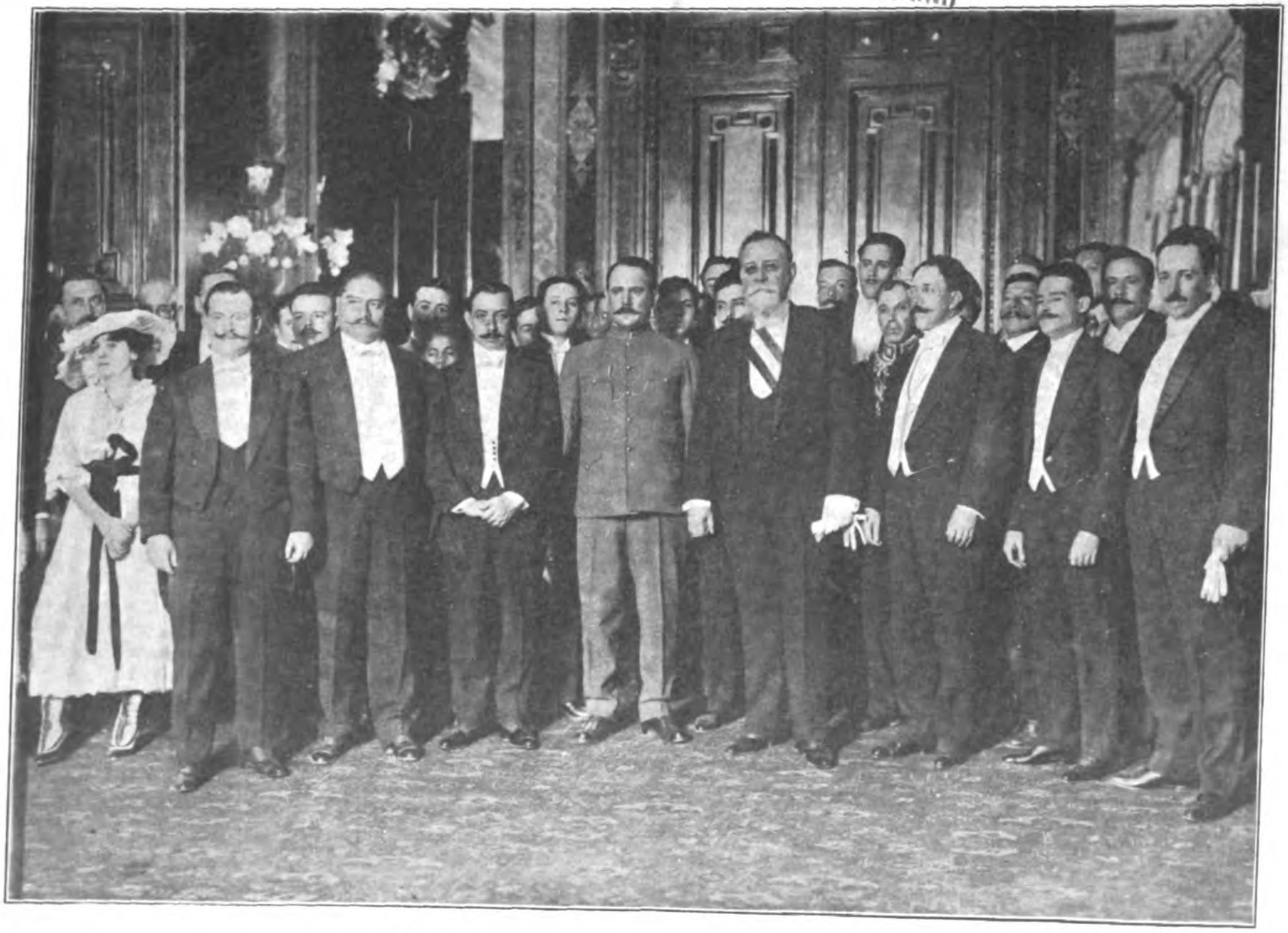


PRESIDENT CARRANZA AND HIS OFFICIAL FAMILY

TEN CENTS THE COPY

Inauguration Festivities

President Carranza Installed in Office With Appropriate Ceremony and Rejoicing

TUESDAY, May 1, 1917, was one of the most notable days in the entire history of the Republic of Mexico. It was the day set for the inauguration of Venustiano Carranza as President of the nation, but it was of far greater significance and importance than the mere installation of a Chief Magistrate. It was the day that marked the restoration of Constitutional Government that had been suspended for more than four years through the ruthless treason and assassinations perpetrated by Huerta and his associates. Not only that, but it was the day when a constitution more advanced than that of any other country in the world became the organic law of the land, thus marking not only a great forward step for Mexico, but also for the entire human race.

Portion of Gathering to Welcome President Carranza

It is the earnest belief of President Carranza and his associates, as well as of those foreigners who have watched the progress of events, beginning so feebly in Coahuila in February, 1913, and growing stronger and stronger every day, until the culmination was reached on May 1, 1917, that a new era has dawned for Mexico; that permanent peace and its accompanying prosperity are assured, and that under the leadership of the President the country will march steadily forward under the banner of peace just as it has marched steadily forward under the same leadership beneath the banner of war, for four troublous years.

The program of the festivities and ceremonies was as follows:

At six on the morning of May 1st the national colors were raised over all the public buildings and were saluted by the discharge of twenty-one salvos of cannon. All church bells were also rung and the military bands of the city marched through the streets playing national airs.

At ten o'clock a great civic and military parade took place, composed of large bodies of troops—cavalry, artillery and infantry—together with thousands of school children, representatives of athletic and other organizations, first-aid societies, military schools, civic associations, etc. The procession marched through the principal streets, which were crowded with spectators, and then passed in review at the National Palace before President Carranza, who was accompanied by his staff, Cabinet members and the diplomatic representatives.

Following this, President Carranza was escorted to the Chamber of Deputies, where both houses met in joint session, and the official notification of his election was read to him by Governor de la Mata. After this the President took the solemn oath of office, and simultaneously thousands of doves were loosed and flew in every direction, as a symbol that the dove of peace had at last descended upon the land.

After taking the oath, the President and his suite returned to the National Palace, where all the accredited representatives of the different foreign powers were presented to him. The dean of the diplomatic corps, the minister from Norway, addressed congratulations in the name of his associates, after which Secretary of War Obregon felicitated their chosen leader in the name of the entire army. The members of Congress then paid their respects, after which the doors were thrown open and the general public were admitted. Thousands passed in front of the President, grasped his hand and gave him their congratulations.

The inaugural celebration continued for five days, ending on May 5th, one of the national holidays, which is second only to the national independence day, September 16th, in the hearts of the people. There were all sorts of athletic sports, festivities, receptions, balls, etc., culminating on the 5th of May.

Friendly Relations Assured

American Ambassador Fletcher recently issued a statement to the press of Mexico City in which he declared that the relations between Mexico and the United States were increasingly cordial, and that any misunderstanding would be due to the activities of enemies of both countries. The text of the statement follows:

"I do not expect any difficulties to arise between the Governments of the United States and Mexico as a result of the entry of the United States into the great war.

"My Government is perfectly satisfied with the declaration of neutrality made by the President-elect before Congress on April 15, and is confident that the Mexican Government, representing a sovereign and self-respecting people, will take the proper and necessary means to enforce it.

"No pressure from the Government of the United States has been or will be brought to bear upon the Mexican or any other neutral government to enter the war on the side of the United States. The relations between Mexico and the United States are becoming more cordial and sympathetic every day and I sincerely hope that nothing may occur to interfere with the good and close understanding between these two great American democracies.

"Geography makes us neighbors; common aims and aspirations and common sense should make us friends. Should anything happen in Mexico to compromise its neutrality and involve the Governments of the two countries in difficulties, it will be the result of underhand work of some enemies of one or the other or of both countries.

"The Government and people of the United States have none but the best wishes for the welfare of this country and will do nothing which would interfere with the establishment of a free, constitutional and orderly Government, the pacification of the country and the development of national prosperity.

"The United States, in spite of its strong desires and most sincere efforts to hold itself aloof from this great international conflict, has been forced to take up arms and I sincerely hope that Mexico may be more fortunate. Americans in official and private life, appreciating the hospitality of a friendly country, will scrupulously refrain from doing anything which might compromise the neutrality of Mexico or embarrass this Government."

Presidential Election

The Result as Declared by Congress—Many Names Written by Voters on the Blank Ballots

HEREWITH are given the complete returns of the Presidential election held on March 11th, canvassed by Congress and announced as the official figures.

In every instance the ballots were blank, a space being left for the voter to inscribe the name of his favorite candidate. As will be seen, several thousand votes were cast for others than President Carranza, Generals Gonzales and Obregon leading in this respect. Many others received smaller numbers of votes, including General Alvarado and other prominent revolutionary leaders.

The figures follow:

States	Carranza	Gonzales	Obregon
Aguascalientes	7394	28	17
Colima	4874	27	19
Coahuila	26841	52	219
Campeche	2061	6	3
Chihuahua	5883	2	57
Chiapas	14277	8	...
Durango	6816	17	202
Guanajuato	91226	3328	708
Guerrero	9825	....	....
Jalisco	34135	28	52
Mexico	52518	1676	520
Michoacan	33627	1515	120
Nuevo Leon	33166	8	10
Oaxaca	60964	138	73
Puebla	57519	1215	193
Queretaro	14754	491	111
S. L. Potosi	22638	71	51
Sinaloa	12710	24	169
Tabasco	6163	2	5
Hidalgo	19949	70	32
Tlaxcala	21724	176	53
Yucatan	25717	12	14
Zacatecas	20732	67	66
Veracruz	39455	276	172
Sonora	20667	6	367
Tepic	5856	2	9
Baja California	3056	....	25
Quintana Roo	345	12	2
Distrito Federal	70003	1773	553
Totals	797305	11615	4008

The total number of votes cast was 812,928.

Carranza Officially Declared President

After canvassing the returns of the election from the various States, the Chamber of Deputies adopted a resolution in the following words, announcing officially that in the election held on March 11th the Citizen Venustiano Carranza received 797,305 votes, against various other candidates with a much inferior number of ballots. The resolution was unanimously approved. It reads as follows:

"The Chamber of Deputies of the Twenty-Seventh Congress of the Republic of Mexico, constituted in an Electoral College and in use of the rights and faculties conferred upon them by Section I of Article 74 of the Political Constitution of the Republic, have decreed, after a careful examination of the electoral computations verified on the second Sunday of March of this year:

"Article I—The Citizen Venustiano Carranza is declared President for the term of four years beginning from December of 1916 until November of 1920, in virtue of having obtained an absolute majority of votes in the election.

"Article II—In virtue of this, the Citizen Venustiano Carranza is cited to appear on May the first before the Chamber of Deputies, and with all the formalities of the law take the oath of office as President of the Republic.

"Chamber of Deputies, Mexico, April 26, 1916.

"Eduardo Hay, *President.*
"Jesus Lopez Lira, *Secretary.*
"Filomeno Mata, *Second Secretary.*"

No Official Candidates

President Carranza has issued the following positive declaration, negativing the report set afloat regarding certain candidates for Governorship of various States, that they were the chosen representatives of the Administration. The statement follows:

"The Citizen Venustiano Carranza, President-elect of the Republic, makes known the following: It has reached my knowledge that in some States of the Republic some of the candidates who are nominated for the Governorship of said States have been reported to be official candidates—that is, that they are supposed to have the support and protection of the First Chief. To make clear the erroneous misunderstanding in this matter, I hereby declare that the Constitutional Government which I have the honor to represent will not sustain or protect any popular candidate whatsoever. On the contrary, the Constitutional Government will do all in its power to see that free and legal elections are held, and that the choice of the people be respected. All political parties will have equal rights and protection. In virtue of this, in some of the States where the provisional Governors have placed their influence in favor of certain candidates, they have been removed, so that the will of the people shall not be trampled upon.

"National Palace, Mexico, April 7, 1917.
"V. Carranza,
"The First Chief in Charge of the Executive Power."

JOSE MARIA
MORELOS
MARIANO
MATAMOROS
LEONARDO
BRAVO
MIGUEL
BRAVO
HERMENEGILDO
GALEANA
ITURBIDE
VICENTE
GUERRERO
IGNACIO
LOPEZ RAYON
GUADALUPE
VICTORIA
MIGUEL
BARRAGAN
GOMEZ
FARIAS
IGNACIO
DE LA
LLAVE

President Carranza Taking Oath of Office

New Governmental Departments

By a recent decree the Department of Fomento, Colonization and Industry has been separated into two divisions, owing to the vast amount of labor entailed by the various branches dealt with, and which under the new Government has become overwhelming. The Department of Fomento is one division and the Department of Commerce and Industry is the other.

To the Secretary of Fomento will belong the following branches of the public service: Colonization, immigration, agricultural colonization, founding of towns with communal lands, agrarian problems, lands, repartition of lands, conservation and exploration of forests, waters, irrigation of lands, draining of lakes and swamps, fisheries, hunting, the study of the improvement of live-stock, silk culture, bird and bee culture, the establishment of agricultural schools, encouraging the cultivation of vegetables, industrial and medicinal, fruits, trees, experimental stations, chambers of commerce and agricultural associations, veterinary schools, geographical studies, astronomy, propaganda and expositions of agriculture, flowers and live-stock, astronomical observatories, scientific explorations, census statistics in general, and registration of property.

Under the Department of Commerce and Industry, the Secretary will have charge of the following: Commerce, industry in general, commercial and business organizations, teaching national propaganda, studies, geological explorations, mining and mining concessions, exploitations of oil, mineral combustibles, mercantile and industrial property, exclusive privileges, the direction general of labor, and all matters relating to laborers, immigration, insurance companies, national and international expositions, commercial, mining and merchant marine, statistics, etc.

Exports from the United States to Mexico for April, 1917, amounted to $1,930,458, against $815,152 for the same month in 1916.

The State of Tabasco

A Little Known, But Very Interesting Portion of the Republic of Mexico

THE resources and problems of the State of Tabasco are important and typical of a rich section of Mexico, little known in the United States.

Tabasco is situated on the southern shore of the Gulf of Mexico, between Guatemala and the State of Campeche, which form its eastern boundary, and the States of Chiapas, Vera Cruz and Oaxaca. It comprises 27,000 square kilometers—or 10,072 square miles.

The location and physical aspects of the State give it a climate ranging in temperature between the extremes of 60 and 96 degrees Fahrenheit. Its numerous rivers and rich soil are the basis of its great agricultural resources. Nearly all the State is low and level and formed largely of alluvial deposits brought down from the slopes of the Sierra Madre, which forms part of the boundary with Guatemala. So numerous are the rivers that they still furnish the principal means of communication. A dozen could be named which are navigable for the ordinary river craft, and some which could accommodate fairly large steamers. Numerous lagoons and estuaries add still further to the possibilities of water communication.

Municipal Government Palace, Villa Hermosa, Tabasco

The population of the State is approximately 135,000. Only 59,000 live in towns and villages, the remainder dwelling in the open country.

Agriculture is the greatest source of wealth. Periodically many of the rivers overflow, and after the consequent inundation leave a rich alluvial deposit, as does the Nile each year; furthermore, rains are frequent and the atmosphere is rarely lacking in sufficient moisture to maintain the freshness of the vegetation, which attains a remarkable degree of luxuriousness. Cedar and mahogany are found in the extensive forests and, because of the numerous natural waterways, are easily floated to tide water. For more than fifty years the forests of Tabasco have been exploited almost incessantly by different companies, yet enormous wealth in forest products remains—fibrous and medicinal plants, gums and resinous saps, including chicle and the so-called castilloa, which yields a good quality of oil.

The principal agricultural products are cacao, of which three crops a year are gathered; maize, which is also harvested three times annually; rice, beans, tobacco, and oil. Stock-raising is carried on to some extent. Considerable sugar cane is grown and some "aguardiente," a brandy from cane syrup, distilled.

The business of the State is quite largely in the hands of the Spanish colony, which may be said to be its only foreign element, and which occupies itself principally with buying and selling products of the country that are exported to other States of Mexico, principally Yucatan, Campeche and Vera Cruz, and to foreign markets. Coffee, chicle, oil, valuable woods and hides are the principal articles of export to foreign countries. The importations are made up mostly of flour, peas, potatoes, onions, garlic, textiles, medicines and wines.

Both a Chamber of Commerce and a Farmers' Union are found in the capital, Villa Hermosa (Beautiful Town).

Governor Luis F. Dominguez of Tabasco

Evidences of the existence of petroleum have been repeatedly noted and explorers and prospectors have made attempts to locate mineral oil in commercial quantity, but thus far without success.

The first railroad in the State is now under construction and, though short, is counted upon to make immediate contribution to agricultural development. Contributing to this development also, and to the general welfare of the population, is the restitution of the "ejidos," or community lands, which has been proceeding satisfactorily and means much to the independence and well-being of the natives, since agriculture is practically the only source of wealth, as well as of the necessaries of life.

The industries carried on to any important degree are the producing of sugar, tanning and the making of pottery and tobacco products.

The political and administrative organization of the State is in its general lines similar to that of a State of the United States, the public functions being divided into executive, judicial and legislative. The State is divided into seventeen municipalities and eight judicial districts.

The need of the country is for development, both of material and human resources. Almost without railroads and with very few well-made roads, encouragement of agriculture awaits to a large degree upon improvement of communication.

Earnest and persistent efforts have been made to bring public instruction to the desired standard; and while this has not yet been attained, much has been accomplished when due allowance is made for the adverse conditions encountered. An insufficient number of teachers and disinterestedness upon the part of the natives are two of the great difficulties met. Teachers have been drawn as was found possible from other States, principally from Vera Cruz. This source of supply has been inadequate, so attention has been given especially to the establishment and

Lic. Joaquin Ruiz,
Secretary General of Tabasco State Government

maintenance of a normal school, which is overcoming the problem of scarcity of teachers. Institutes bearing the names of "Juarez" and "America," known as normal academies, teach pedagogy and the applied methodology of instructions. In the former the course is five years, which, in addition to its preparation of students to be teachers, constitutes one of the schools for general higher education. The normal school for teachers established in 1906 is the normal school proper and also has a five-year term, graduating students qualified to teach elemental and higher education.

Meeting the indifference of the people toward the school has been exceedingly difficult, with frequent shortage of labor and the ever-present tasks which agriculture furnishes abundantly. Steps have been taken to reduce truancy and to impress upon parents the inadvisability of withdrawing children of school age from school to work on the farm or in shops. The difficulties in providing a sufficient number of buildings, furniture and equipment through sparsely settled sections have made impossible the enforcement of compulsory education.

The organization of the primary schools is now complete, each teacher instructing a group of usually from thirty to forty in number. Physical education is obligatory in all the schools and is mostly in the form of military exercises and outings of the pupils, gymnasiums not being generally available. The rapid increase in the number of primary schools has resulted in a marked decrease in illiteracy and it is hoped with good reason that the people of the open country will come to feel the necessity of instruction and that colonization will soon have brought the population up to numbers sufficient to support schools in sections now too sparsely populated. The Government of the State backs with generous expenditures for public instruction its faith that it is through education that this rich State will achieve worthy prosperity.

Other branches of education than the primary schools have received attention. Night schools have been brought within the reach of all children to whom work denies attendance at the day school. There are also evening schools for adults and for women, and for sons of laborers the Society of Artisans has a special institution to which the Government lends support. Evening schools have also been established by the present State Government of Tabasco in all the municipal halls and benefits are already apparent.

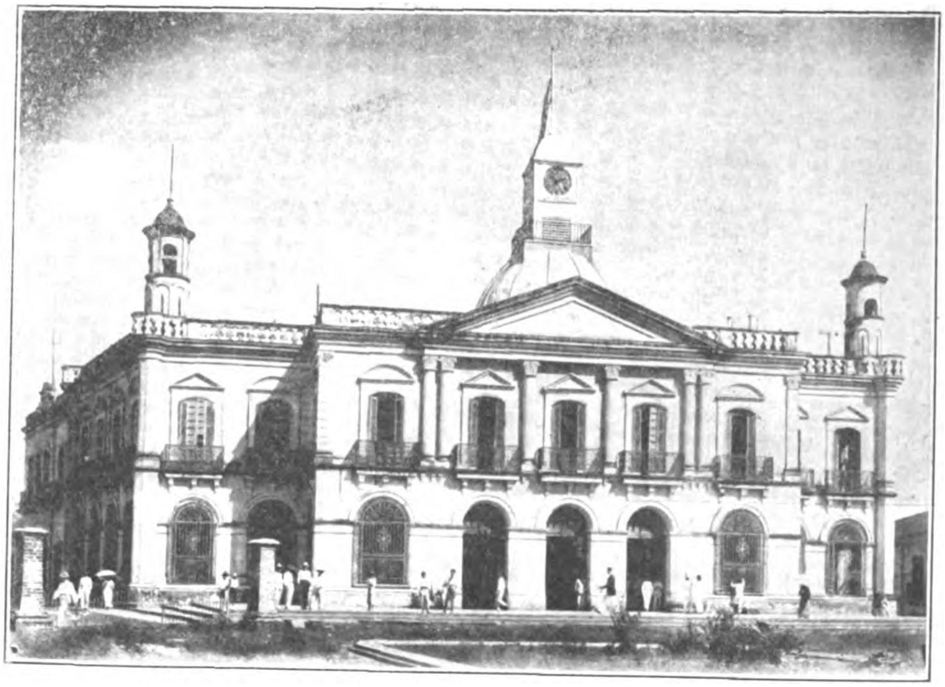
The State has no industrial school, but workmen's children who have satisfactorily met the requirements of the four years' obligatory instruction in the primary schools become apprenticed in whichever free trade they choose.

Rural education, in its strict meaning, has not been established, although many teachers have given special attention to it. The indifference and opposition of the natives as to the necessity of instruction has been the great obstacle. Under Governor Dr. Simón Sarlat, rural schools were established whose results, while not striking, yet made a beginning in teaching reading, writing and arithmetic to the natives of the outlying country. Among these schools there were many like that of El Rosario, of the municipality of Comalcalco, which was founded by the inhabitants of the place, each contributing materials and giving the land necessary for practical agriculture.

The statistics of illiteracy taken from the published data by Professor Tores Quintero in his pamphlet on rudimentary instruction in the Republic, placed the population of Tabasco at 187,574 and the illiterates at 155,359, leaving 32,215 as the number who are able to read and write. Illiteracy is greater among children over twelve years than under, showing that efforts recently made to spread public instruction have accomplished results.

The present Governor, in the interests of the people, ordered a general reform of the educational laws and the programs pertaining to public instruction, and it is expected that with the minute study which is being made a new code will soon be worked out covering the importance of education, obligatory instruction, selection of personnel, medical inspection, school inspection and policy, etc. There is also a law at present in preparation dealing with rural schools. This was proposed by Professor Arnulfo Giorgana, and it was expected that within two months from the time this was written the State would be provided with a sufficient number of these schools. There were at that time 91 elementary primary schools and three higher primary schools, in addition to 25 schools which have been ordered but not yet established.

Agricultural education is given in the elementary schools and study is being given to the problem of its extension. An agricultural experiment station exists near the capital, which does not, however, perform the complete and efficient services desired of it, because the building for it is not yet finished, and because of lack of sufficient staff. All of these difficulties are expected to be overcome soon.



State Government Palace, Villa Hermosa, Tabasco

During the hardest days of the Revolution many of the plantations were abandoned and the production of most others greatly reduced, owing in both cases as much to the usual conservatism of capital in the face of uncertain political conditions as to the scarcity of labor. Restoration is rapidly being brought about, the extreme fertility of the soil making the renewing of agricultural productiveness rapid.

Financial difficulties were encountered in Tabasco as elsewhere following the Revolution. There were times when, after the restoration of metallic currency, the Government lacked money with which to pay even the troops. The public and the business interests,

(*Concluded on page 11*)

Foreigners in Mexico

The Basis Upon Which They May Acquire Mineral, Oil and Other Lands in the Republic

SECRETARY PASTOR ROUAIX, of the Department of Fomento, has signed and promulgated the following regulations relative to the basis upon which foreigners may acquire property, lands, mines, forest privileges, etc., in Mexico, in accordance with the constitutional principles of the Government:

"On the 15th of August of last year, in virtue of high consideration for our fundamental laws, which concede to foreigners the same rights as our own citizens, and in order that the first named shall not receive more benefits and considerations than they, it was decreed that the following dispositions must be observed:

ESCUELA NORMAL PARA PROFESORAS Y PRACTICA ANEXA

Normal School for Professors, Villa Hermosa, Tabasco

"First—Regarding foreigners who applied for or wished to acquire property in Mexico, such as forest products, mines, lands, etc., or concessions for the exploitation of the products of the country, such as petroleum, fisheries, etc.: Before endeavoring to acquire such property, all foreigners must previously send an application to the Secretary of Foreign Relations, in which they shall declare that they forfeit their right as foreign citizens and the right to appeal to their embassy in the special case as proprietors or concession holders, and that in the case of becoming property holders in Mexico, they renounce all rights as foreigners and consider themselves Mexican citizens, renouncing the right of foreigners to demand protection from their respective governments. Foreign companies will be incapable of acquiring rights or properties mentioned if they do not nationalize themselves and act in accordance with the Mexican laws.

"Second—In all applications which are not accompanied by a certificate from the Secretary of Foreign Relations, in which the applicant declares that he has conformed with the requirements cited in the first clause, and which are not accompanied by said certificate, declaring that the applicant is willing to forfeit his citizenship, the certificate or application will be without any legal value. All titles to property or permissions for exploitation of national products already mentioned, also the contracts, must have a literal copy of the certificate mentioned in the first clause. If this certificate does not appear in the contract or permission, it will be the cause of declaring said permission or contract null and void.

"Third—In all applications or solicitations already presented to the Secretary of Fomento, or the administrative agencies of the Ministry of Fomento, all judgment or decision of said applications will be suspended and four months will be given to present the certificates referred to in the first clause, the date to be counted from the date of these announcements. If this is not complied with, all applications and solicitations will be declared null and void. These dispositions will be published officially all over the Republic, to be obeyed to the letter.

"In accordance with an anterior decree, which has in consideration that many foreigners were unable to present in time the certificates referred to in Clauses 2 and 3, it has been conceded that the four months which were given in Clause 3 as the time in which to file said certificates, would be extended for four months longer, which means that they will have until the 15th of August of this year to comply therewith, and that when this date shall be near and finding no other reason for which the time should again be extended, it has been directed:

"First—The 15th of August of this year is the end of the limit for the extension that was granted. (2) All applications that are suspended on account of the certificates referred to in Clause 3 will continue suspended until the organic laws and regulations of Article 27 of the Constitution are put into effect. (3) If anterior to the present decree the organic or regulatory laws of Article 27 are put into effect, the parties in interest shall present the certificate referred to in Clause 3, and if the First Chief of the Constitutional Army or the Federal Executive shall declare that said certificate should not be admitted, the application will be filed and declared null."

April 24, 1917. To all whom this may concern.

THE SECRETARY—PASTOR ROUAIX.

Colonizing Socorro Island

The Secretary of Fomento has entered into a contract with General Fortunato Maycotte for the colonization of the island of Socorro, which belongs to the group called Revillagigedo, in the Pacific Ocean. The contract gives the concessionaire the right to exploit the fisheries, forest products, waters, minerals, as also the deposits of lime and kelp that are found on this island.

The concessionaire is obliged to establish, in those portions of the island that are susceptible to cultivation, families of Mexicans who will be given from 25 to 65 acres of land for each person in the family. He must also give to each of the colonists the implements and other elements necessary for proper cultivation of the soil, and also construct houses for their comfortable occupation. At the end of three years the concessionaire must file a plot of the island, while at the completion of each fiscal year he must render a detailed account of the work done and the progress made in that period. He must found and maintain schools at his own cost, and must also provide a doctor, who will attend the colonists and furnish the necessary medicines free of cost. He is to pay the laborers with whatever money is then in use, and he is not to pay them with "orders," or to establish a company store. He is also required to observe Article 123 of the Constitution, referring to the legislation of labor and laborers. He must maintain in the most conspicuous spot the national flag as a sign of the sovereignty of the Republic. The concessionaire will also be obliged not to destroy the live-stock existing on said island, and to procure others for the betterment of conditions thereon. He will also observe the same conduct regarding the breeding places of fish, as well as attending to the replenishing of the forest growths. He will pay the Secretary of Fomento the sum of $1,200 for the inspection and protection of the island by the Government, which sum is to be paid annually. He must also pay the usual taxes assessed upon the exploitation of the different products of the island.

Will End International Plots

The United States Will in Future Prosecute Conspirators Against Mexico and Other Countries

THE United States Government, after suffering its hospitality to be seriously abused for many years by foreign agents, accredited and unaccredited, juntas, conspirators and filibusterers, is at last to deal sternly with those who would plan on American territory military expeditions against governments or factions of nations with which this country is at peace.

Both the Senate and House Judiciary Committees have approved several paragraphs to be included in the Espionage bill, now pending, which will have a far-reaching effect on the stability of constituted governments in Central and South America. By its provisions will counter-revolution, for example, against the Carranza Government in Mexico be prevented, so far as activity on United States territory is concerned. No longer will the Carranza Administration need to fear the secret maneuvers of *cientificos* and other exiles who adroitly plot in New York City, San Antonio, El Paso, and other towns the overthrow of the Government which the United States has recognized and is now morally supporting.

It is a well-known fact, for instance, that although the United States Government possessed proof that Victoriano Huerta was brought back to this country by German money, that he planned to participate in a military movement against Carranza, and was en route to the border for that purpose, he could not be *convicted* under any Federal statute. His trial was postponed until death solved the problem. Supreme Court decisions had made it clear that under existing laws it was criminal actually to participate in an armed expedition, but that the mere planning of a revolt in a neighboring country was not a punishable offence. Conspirators have long taken advantage of this well-known immunity. But when the espionage measure passes, the new provisions applicable in time of war as well as in time of peace will rid the United States of these offenders and do much toward making the neighboring governments feel that the protestations of disinterestedness in revolutionary movements made by the Washington Government are at last to be effectively reinforced by action.

TEXT OF NEW PROPOSALS

The language of the new proposals which are sure of adoption reads as follows:

"Whoever within the territory or jurisdiction of the United States begins or sets on foot, or provides, or prepares a means for, or furnishes the money for, or who takes part in, any military or naval expedition or enterprise to be carried on from thence against the territory or dominion of any foreign prince or state, or of any colony, district, or people with whom the United States is at peace, shall be fined not more than $3,000 and imprisoned not more than three years.

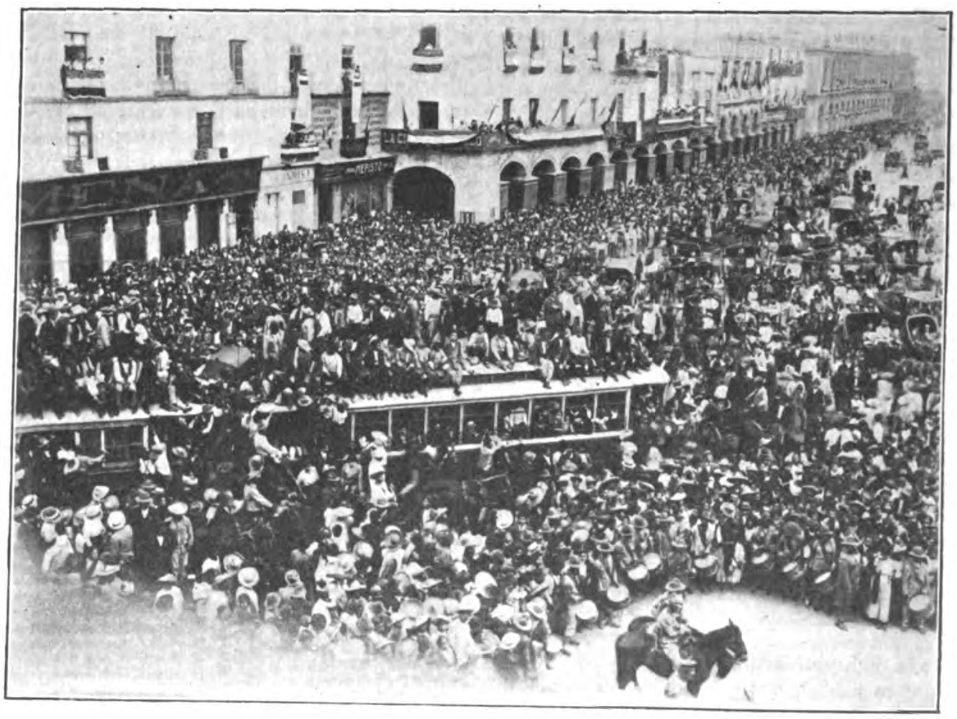
"Whoever being an alien, other than a diplomatic or consular officer, or attaché, shall act in the United States as an agent of a foreign government without prior notification to the Secretary of State, shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.

"The words 'foreign government' as used in the above section shall be deemed to include any government, faction, or body of insurgents within a country with whom the United States is at peace, which government, faction, or body of insurgents may or may not have been recognized by the United States as a government.

"If two or more persons within the jurisdiction of the United States conspire to injure or destroy property situated within a foreign country with which the United States is at peace when the offence designed to be committed in such foreign countries constitutes a crime punishable by imprisonment under the laws thereof and when one or more of such persons commits an act within the jurisdiction of the United States to effect the object of the conspiracy, each of the parties to such conspiracy shall be fined not more than $5,000 or imprisoned not more than three years or both."

ENFORCEMENT PLANNED

Strict enforcement of these laws is planned by the Department of Justice. It goes without saying that their passage will be greatly welcomed in Mexico, where, indeed, in the last two years the feeling has prevailed that prosecution by the United States of Villa agents or sympathizers with the Villa cause, or conspirators against Carranza, resident in our own country, has at best been only lukewarm. By acting firmly against enemies of Carranza within the jurisdiction of the United States, the Washington Government will indeed be able rightly to ask that enemies of the United States or their agents who are now or may be active in Mexico shall be similarly prosecuted. The new sections of the Espionage bill will go a long way toward establishing a reciprocity on this most important phase of revolutionary troubles in all Latin-America.—*N. Y. Evening Post.*



Small Portion of Gathering to Welcome President Carranza

A New Railroad Line

A Mexican company has asked the Secretary of Communications and Public Works for a concession for the construction of a railroad which will start from the city of San Luis Potosi, pass through the State and the city of Durango, and have its terminal at the port of Mazatlan, in the State of Sinaloa, which is known as the most important seaport on the west coast. The construction of this railroad will be of great benefit to the entire Republic, as it will connect all the principal cities of the country with the Pacific Ocean. Another feature of importance is that the city where the line begins is a great railway center and one of the most important places in the country.

If the Technical Commission of Railroads and Navigation renders a favorable report on the project, the Secretary will sign a contract with the concessionaires and work on the line will be commenced immediately.

A railroad to Mazatlan was one of the projects of the late C. P. Huntington, who built the International Mexican road from Piedras Negras, on the Rio Grande, to the city of Durango, proposing to extend it to Mazatlan. This plan was never carried out, though several surveys were made. The region between Durango and Mazatlan is very rich in timber, mineral and agricultural resources.

· The ·
Mexican Review
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NOTE AND COMMENT

The resumption of active operations by such extensive concerns as the American Smelting and Refining Company at its various plants in different portions of the Republic is proof positive that foreign investors are accommodating themselves to the new order of things, that they believe permanent tranquility has returned, and that they have confidence in the Government's willingness and ability to maintain order and protect citizens and foreigners alike in the peaceful conduct of their chosen pursuits and enterprises.

It has been found advisable by the United States Government to issue an express disclaimer of the report that foreigners not citizens were liable to conscription under the law recently adopted. The immediate reason for this action was the widespread fear among the numerous Mexican citizens temporarily resident in the United States, especially in the border States, that they might be called upon to join the army against their desire. There is no occasion for such apprehension and the usual influx of laborers from Mexico into Texas and elsewhere during the cotton and cane harvest can be continued without fear of molestation.

The indisposition of a large portion of the press to publish matters that are creditable to the Mexican Government, while apparently too willing to give space to things that are discreditable, even when they are absurd, can be seen from the manner in which the remarkable resumption of specie payments was brought about, has been treated. In truth it has been almost completely ignored. Although it has been an accomplished fact for over six months, and although it is one of the most remarkable events of the kind in history, yet few readers of the daily or magazine press have seen any account of the occurrence. It is true it reads like a fairy tale, but nevertheless it *is* true. The facts set down in the last issue of The Review can be proven readily by any one caring to do so. The press correspondents in Mexico will corroborate the account, yet because it is contrary to the accepted rules of finance supposed to govern such matters, it is calmly set down as impossible and the story denounced as false. There have been a number of so-called financial and economic laws disproved during the Revolution in Mexico, and not the least was the automatic resumption of specie payments.

The Review gives elsewhere the total number of votes cast for the President by States at the election in March. An interesting feature is the considerable number of ballots for Generals Gonzales and Obregon, though both had issued statements early in the campaign that they were not and would not be candidates, and urging all voters to support the logical and only real candidate, President Carranza. As heretofore stated, all the ballots used were blank, no name being printed thereon, and the voters were able to exercise their own will in naming their favorites. The election was by direct vote, instead of the former cumbersome electoral system.

A notable feature for several months past has been the holding of congresses of the employes of various industries in different portions of the Republic, where measures were discussed for the betterment of the condition of the workingmen. In every case these gatherings have resulted in material increases in wages, as well as in improvements in other directions, such as the shortening of the hours of labor, etc. That such conventions can be held is one of the most striking and convincing proofs of the changes that have been wrought by the Revolution. Not so many years ago meetings of workingmen with these objects in view were dispersed by rifle and cannon. Now the Government encourages and participates in them.

The recently published statements of Secretary of State Lansing to the press regarding the improvement of conditions in Mexico, and the better understanding that is being created between the two countries, have produced a very favorable effect in the Republic. There has coincidently been a notable cessation in the publication by the American press of unfounded reports calculated to engender trouble and misunderstanding, while a better knowledge of actual conditions in Mexico is becoming more general. The inauguration of President Carranza and the work of the National Congress have done much to encourage the belief among those hitherto skeptical that it will only be a question of a comparatively brief period before tranquility will be general throughout the country. All true friends of both nations rejoice at the improved aspect.

The United States is confronted by much the same sort of food problem that was the case in Mexico City and other centers of population during the Revolution. Steps are being taken in the former country to regulate the handling and the prices of food commodities, but so far as observation goes the plan so successfully followed in the sister Republic does not appear as yet to have been advanced. It is that of the establishment of stores under Government control, where food is sold at an advance over actual cost of just sufficient to pay the cost of distribution and handling. The Mexican officials purchased directly from the farmers, wherever possible, and then sold to all applicants at rates far below those demanded by the average dealer. Stocks of grain, beans and other articles that were being hoarded contrary to law were taken over by the Government at cost as shown by invoices and put on sale. All wholesalers were required to present documents showing cost of their various commodities, and were allowed to sell at a profit of twenty per cent. Retailers were permitted to realize a profit of twenty-five per cent. Price lists were posted, giving the maximum rates chargeable for all commodities, and those demanding more than this were punished.

A Not Well-Posted Writer

Collier's Weekly of May 19th devotes several pages to an argument by a well-known ex-Senator, the object of which is to demonstrate that the United States ought to intervene in Mexico, under the pretext of a "benevolent protectorate." No one who has followed the intervention movement during the past five years will for one moment be deceived by this designation. It is interesting to note what the writer declares a "constructive American policy" would do in Mexico. He says:

> "It would mean the distribution of land among the people, freedom for the peon to till his acres in peace, with access to markets for his produce, or to labor undisturbed for good wages in steady employments. It would mean the education of children and the formation of habits of order and system among all people. It would mean all those things which in sum we describe by the word civilization."

If the author of the article in question were as well posted regarding his subject as a man is bound to be who assumes to speak with authority, he would have known before he penned the words quoted, as well as many others of like purport, that what he declares the United States *would* do is *already being done*, and done quietly and without ostentation—so quietly that the foreign press has scarcely deigned to notice it even when requested so to do. He would have known that land *is* being distributed among the people, the commencement in that direction having been made as far back as the first half-dozen months of the Revolution in 1913. He would have known that the peons *are* "tilling their acres and working undisturbed for good wages." Note the condition in Yucatan as well as elsewhere, where for the first time in his life the peon enjoys a decent wage and abundant leisure for attendance at school or for otherwise improving himself. He would have known that even while the Revolution was at its height and the outcome apparently doubtful, the Revolutionists found time and money to send hundreds of school teachers to the United States to learn the best methods of education. He would have known that in that same period of unrest and uncertainty new schools were opened as fast as new territory was conquered, and that today the number of educational institutions of all kinds is at least fifty per cent greater than ever before in the history of Mexico. He would have known many other interesting facts regarding the progress that Mexico has made and is making, and he would have found the very foundation stones taken from beneath the "argument" that he has advanced on behalf of would-be exploiters of a neighboring country.

Interesting Historical Fact

In a very readable article by Consul J. R. Silliman, entitled "Old Mexico and New in Querétaro," which appeared in the *Century Magazine* for April, was the following, which is very pertinent at this juncture:

"This is far from being a complete statement of the change which has come in Mexico. It is really only one feature of the change. The world is full of the story. Looking upon it all, even in the midst of it all, the calm, unprejudiced observer with open and receptive spirit can only endeavor to be sure that he sees the entire situation from all its different viewpoints and listen patiently to all the radically different presentations of it.

"He must ever remember that the present movement in Mexico is essentially a revolution; that it is the Mexicans themselves who have brought about the great changes; that it is the Mexicans themselves who are responsible for them, and that it is the Mexicans themselves who must, at last, give to the world a sufficient or an insufficient reason for them. He must also bear in mind that only impartial history, which always overlooks excesses and abuses which are temporary and searches ever for the fundamentals which are eternal, can finally determine any great political issue. It is time alone that is the real revelation of destiny. It is time alone that can, and does finally and faithfully, place the correct estimate upon men, their policies, and their work. It is time alone that, sooner or later, demonstrates clearly what has been destructive, what has been merely obstructive, and what has been truly constructive.

Every one knows the close connection between the clerical party and the second empire in Mexico. It was an absolute surprise to me, therefore, to find in my recent reading in Querétaro the following from the Catholic Emperor Maximilian to the Catholic bishops of Mexico, in replying to a communication from them dated December 29, 1866:

"'*You say that the Mexican Church has never taken part in political affairs. Would God this were true, but unfortunately (desgraciadamente) we have irrefutable evidences, and indeed in great numbers, which are a sad but evident truth that even the dignitaries of the Church and a considerable number of the clergy have manifested an obstinate and active resistance to the legitimate authorities of the State. It is clear, my esteemed bishops, that the Mexican Church, by a lamentable fatality, has concerned itself overmuch in temporal matters, forgetting in this, and losing sight of completely, the true teachings of the gospel.*'

"These words were soon followed by the disastrous storm which fell upon the Church with the overthrow of the empire, and by the stern, relentless fate which led Maximilian to his death upon the Hill of the Bells."

Smile awhile, and while you smile
Another smiles.
And soon there's miles and miles
Of smiles,
And life's worth while, because
You smile!

—Anon.

Endorsement of "The Review"

The following from a New York business man who takes a deep interest in Mexico is well worth consideration:

"In my opinion, the thoughts of the reading public of the United States have been so abused by continued reports condemning all Mexicans, that a false impression has been deeply imbedded in their minds.

"General Carranza is working on a plan that he had in mind over two years ago, when in the midst of all his troubles he saw but one goal, and that plan was fully defined in his speech at Queretaro.

"I have read carefully the three issues of The Review — October, November and December. One thing is clear throughout your publications, that you are certainly operating along the proper lines, as is manifest by the truths in your statements.

"I could write indefinitely in this strain, having had opportunity to see both sides of the question, and found the situation throughout Mexico, having traveled from Vera Cruz, northward and eastward to Larado, is that it will be but a matter of a few months, under the able guidance of General Carranza to clear the situation to such an extent that Mexico will come back to its own, and start on new lines of prosperity, unknown heretofore.

"It is needless for me to tell you, who no doubt are experiencing the same annoyances, that many people absolutely know nothing or do not want to know anything about true conditions in Mexico, and the good work of General Carranza, and it oftentimes surprises me how a discussion will arise with the most intelligent of Americans, who cannot see anything in Mexico but banditism, so called graft, the ignorance of the people, disease, and in fact everything but the true conditions."

"It is a pleasure to know that a journal, printed in English dealing exclusively with the Mexican situation, can be obtained by American people who are desirous of reading the 'Truth About the Constitutionalist Form of Government.' The American press, in its eagerness to obtain news to place before the public, will accept and print statements received from unreliable sources at the border, without investigating as to the correctness of these statements, and it is a very noticeable fact, that if one reads and compares the statements of three or four newspapers of the same date, that he will observe contradictory reports.

National Agrarian Commission

The auxiliary director of the National Agrarian Commission has rendered a detailed account to the members of that body of the work that has so far been accomplished. In the period from March, 1916, to March, 1917, different groups have been made of the various matters that have been treated and accomplished, making a total of 4,200 different proceedings. In the month of March of the current year 75 proceedings were taken up and concluded, while a considerable number of consultations, petitions, etc., received attention. During the same period 76 others were submitted and considered by the commission. Six of these have been approved by President Carranza.

Approximately over 870 applications have been submitted to the commission, of which 470 were for the restitution of lands, while the others, on account of their indefinable character, have not yet been classified.

Profitable Oil Business

The annual report of the Mexican Petroleum Company for 1916 shows that in that year it made a net recovery of $7,153,059, of which, after deducting the $950,000 applied to the preferred stock, a balance of nearly $16 a share remained for the common. This is more than three times the amount earned for this issue in 1915 and more than five times that earned in 1914.

Although this was a remarkable showing, the recovery for the current year should more than double this amount. Nine new tank steamers with an aggregate tonnage of more than 100,000, and four new barges, each with a cargo capacity of 16,000 barrels, are now under construction. Of these nine steamers, six will be completed by the end of July and the remaining boats will be ready for service by the end of 1917. At the end of the current year the company will have a total of 250,000 tons of shipping service, as compared with the present 46,000 tons; it will own and control 28 vessels, with a total carrying capacity of 1,000,000 barrels.

Production is a secondary problem as compared with transportation facilities and it is on these carriers that the increased production will depend. As a matter of fact, Mexican Petroleum already has a production greatly in excess of its shipping facilities. By the end of July it should be an easy matter, with these new boats, to more than double the present production. The demand for oil from Great Britain is great and will continue, with prices high, and there is every indication that the company will earn between $30 and $35 a share on the common in 1917, probably nearer $35.

It is interesting to note that this concern, a purely American one, has pursued the even course of its way throughout all the revolutionary years now ended. It has extended its operations, sunk many wells, built extensive tanks and pipe lines, and in every way been active. It has never found it necessary to ask for diplomatic interference because of any real or fancied grievance. Its Mexican employes have remained faithful and steadfast, and have stood to their posts during the enforced absence of the foreign ones. It is also a fact that the new labor laws as embodied in the Constitution are largely based upon the methods followed voluntarily by this company since its inception. In a word, the Mexican Petroleum Company has set an example in this and other ways that might well be imitated by other concerns, and with profit. It is a pleasure to chronicle the satisfactory financial results that have attended the operations of such an organization.

The agricultural experimental stations in the States of Vera Cruz, Puebla, San Luís Potosí, Oaxaca, Tabasco and elsewhere, have been provided with modern machinery and appliances, the best varieties of seeds of many products have been procured, and the agriculturalists in those sections will be instructed in the best methods for the highest development of their holdings, being aided in every manner toward this important end.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

II

WHY THEY THOUGHT I WAS RUDE

CAME to my reserved seat in the plaza one day Don Martin, a typical Mexican gentleman, who had done much to smooth my path and assist me in the prosecution of my enterprise.

And just a word by way of preface: I arrived in Cuatro Cienegas an absolute stranger. Had never been there, did not know a soul, and was far more lost than the historical cat in a strange garret—supposed to represent the very acme of loneliness. At that time I did not possess enough of the language of the country to swear by, even to swear with, and scarcely enough by which to eat.

Securing a couple of rooms, I was busy, with the help of a peon, setting them to rights and arranging the few necessary bits of furniture, when a fine-looking, portly gentleman of fifty or thereabouts knocked at the open door.

"Pardon me," he said. "My name is Martin Arredondo. Some of my people told me that a strange American had arrived in town with the evident intention of remaining. Knowing that there were no other foreigners here, and as I am the only native who speaks English, I thought I would call upon you without delay and place my services at your disposal. If there is anything in which I can assist you, I hope you will not be backward in calling upon me."

And this was no perfunctory offer, either, made out of mere courtesy and with no expectation that any use would be made of it. In all my stay in this town Don Martin more than fulfilled his promise, many times doing me favors, as I learned subsequently, without solicitation upon my own part. I was indebted to him over and over again for courtesies and services of the most valuable kind.

Beyond giving me his name and pointing out the location of his residence, my visitor did not inform me as to his standing in the place, but merely contented himself by offering his assistance and inviting me to call. Very soon, however, I learned that he was one of the leading citizens, an extensive property owner, manager of a branch bank, and in every respect easily the foremost and most influential resident.

And many a time I thought, and still think: How long would a strange Mexican in an American town, knowing little of the language or customs, wait before the leading banker and property owner would call upon him and tender his services? How long, indeed? This question need not be answered. There isn't any answer!

But to resume.

Don Martin sat down by my side and, after a few moments of conversation, said:

"Señor Semanas, pardon me, but will you permit me to tell you something that I am sure will be of benefit to you?"

I assured him that there was no necessity for his asking my pardon—that I was only too glad to have him give me any information or make any suggestions that lay within his power.

"Very well, then. Some ladies were calling upon my family the other day, and I overheard their conversation. After speaking of various matters, they finally began to talk about you, and after wondering as to your business here, how long you expected to remain, etc., they remarked that they thought you had acted very rudely indeed during your stay."

I was thunderstruck. For a moment I could not find words. Then I said: "Why, Don Martin, what could they have meant? I have treated no one rudely since coming here. In fact, I have hardly spoken to any one, and do not know any of the ladies even by sight. How can they accuse me of having been rude?"

"I will explain it to you," said Don Martin. "The ladies went on to say, in explanation of what they thought was your rude conduct, that you had been here several weeks, that they had seen you on the plaza on the evenings when there was music (Wednesdays and Sundays), that you had passed them again and again (the custom being that the women all walk by themselves in one direction and the men by themselves in the opposite direction), and in all that time *you had never once spoken to one of them!* They were not accustomed to such rudeness of conduct, and wondered where you could have come from, that you were so guilty."

As soon as I could catch my breath I said: "Why, Don Martin, in California, where I lived many years, and in all other portions of the United States, if a man dare speak to a lady to whom he has not been introduced, or unless she speaks to him first, he is apt to find himself in very serious trouble—even in jail. And, naturally, I supposed the same rule prevailed here."

"We have different customs here, especially in small towns like this. If a stranger considers himself to be a gentleman and the equal of the people whom he meets on the plaza during the music, it is his duty to speak to every lady whom he passes. If he does not do this, he is regarded as a boor and very ill bred."

I thanked Don Martin for his kindness, and gave the very pleasant ladies of Cuatro Cienegas no further occasion for criticism on this account. Incidentally, I made some very interesting and enjoyable acquaintances.

The National Agrarian Commission and the various State branches continue to receive numerous applications for the restoration of community lands and the work is going on rapidly in all portions of the Republic.

Falsehoods About Mexico

(From the "German Herold," New York.)

For months the American newspapers have been filled with reports of the German danger in Mexico. Whole regiments of German reservists are said to have left the United States and gone into Mexico to await a favorable time to surprise Uncle Sam. The Mexican army, it is asserted, has a large number of German officers. German banks in Mexico, it is further said, have managed to continue doing business, while British and French banks have been prohibited from doing so.

Lies are not always small. Those mentioned herein have been published over the whole United States and have found many believers. Presently, a respectable Mexican journal comes forward, that is being published by the Mexican Government for the enlightenment of this country, and gives the true facts in the case. In the MEXICAN REVIEW all these stories are designated as absurd. During the last three or four months, at the most only 170 Germans have crossed the border into Mexico. In Tampico, the Mexico harbor city, there are only 30 Germans that can be designated as newcomers. On the whole, the Mexican consuls in the United States have only issued 500 passports for Germans going into Mexico. General Obregon has announced that there is not one German officer or subordinate in the Mexican army. In general, all foreigners have been debarred from the service. What the banks have suffered, so all other institutions have previously suffered that did not obey the law with regard to the redemption of their paper currency. All Mexican banks must comply with this law. No one can say that German banks have received any privileges over others. Lastly, the journal takes the firm stand that Germans living in Mexico have no sympathy for any movement between the United States and Mexico.

Juarez Institute, Villa Hermosa, Tabasco

The American press can only win the respect of foreign countries when such false reports as have been uncovered by the Mexican journal cease to be believed.

Railroad Employes

Formulate the Basis for an Agreement With the Managers of the National Lines

THE recent Congress of Railroad Employes in Mexico City, after several weeks of discussion, adopted the following as the basis of a mutual understanding with the officials:

"First—The Constitutionalist Railroads of Mexico will recognize the juridical personality of the corporations or unions formed or that may be formed in the future, and legally constituted, by the employes of the railways and who belong to the different trades represented in the present convention.

"Second—The functionaries and in general the officers of the railroad shall, in matters that are related to the service and that in any way affect the employes, deal with the committees appointed for that purpose by the Unions or groups recognized by the employes not grouped.

"Third—Whenever in any portion of the railway system men are needed for the carrying out of some service, the management reserves to itself the right of sending such employes as they may deem convenient, they having the power to request the local committees of the groups to which they belong to make such selection.

"Fourth—When any temporary or permanent vacancy of officials shall occur in the shops, the management shall take into consideration, in filling said vacancies, the personal aptitude and capacity of the most advanced employes. The respective committees shall have the right to pass upon such appointments when they consider themselves injured in their scale or grade of standing by others who may aspire to the same grade.

"Fifth—The granting of free passes and other privileges to the unions or groups referred to, shall be subjected expressly to the customs already established under the administration of the ex-National Railways of Mexico.

"Sixth—Whenever the management shall determine upon certain economies with regard to the personnel, the most adequate form shall be studied for carrying them out, strictly subjecting themselves to the general regulations of the shops, in such a manner that the interests of both sides may receive the least possible impairment.

"Seventh—It is solemnly stipulated that the committees will treat only with master mechanics or other immediate chiefs on all matters relative to the service. The privilege will be allowed to the committees of investigating during working hours, if they have had previous permission from the chiefs or operators, any charges made by employer or employe. Their rights will of course be merely those of representatives.

"Eighth—Whenever any employe of the railroad is arrested by the authorities, if the motive be in any way connected with the service, the railroad will help him in all possible ways.

"Ninth—All the rules and laws which have been agreed upon with the actual administration of the railroads will be in force indefinitely, unless at the end of one year two-thirds of the personnel of the system should desire the removing or modification of the existing laws, or if the railroads should pass into new hands. These would be asked to recognize the existing laws."

STATE OF TABASCO

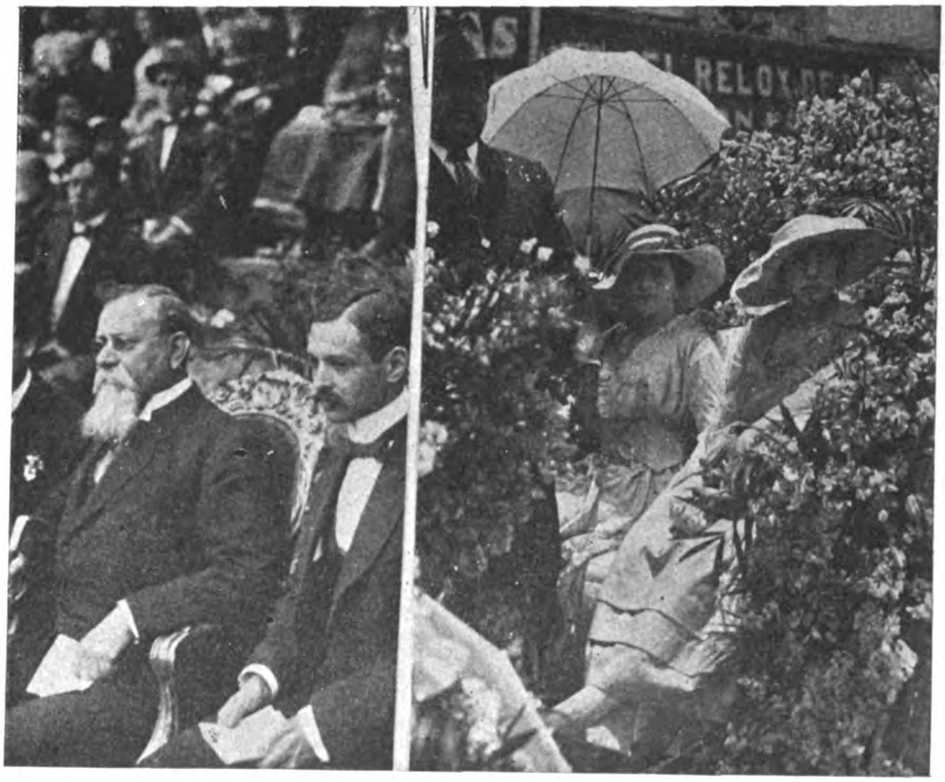
(*Concluded from page 5*)

however, volunteered loans, as did the leading bank of the State, and conditions soon improved.

In spite of financial embarrassment all of the governmental functions have proceeded, some with notable vigor. The department of health has been particularly active, and through its co-operation with the local authorities, a large lagoon near the capital was drained. Results have shown in the decrease, practically to the disappearing point, of several contagious diseases, which previously were of frequent occurrence in the vicinity. Repairs and construction to the hospital have been made and a new ward has just been begun.

Another important public work is the opening of a 40-kilometer road, establishing communication between the capital of Chiapas and the Department of Pichucalco in Chiapas, and a telephone line 25 kilometers long between the capital and the village of San Francisco, with a branch of 20 kilometers to extend the line to the frontier of Chiapas.

A study of the question of the boundary between Chiapas and Tabasco has been completed with the greatest care as to the documentary proof, surveys, etc., and it is believed that an end has been made of a subject long in doubt.



Scenes at Inauguration Festivities

General J. M. Rodriguez, President of the Health Board, is devising a plan in accordance with the provisions of the new Constitution, for the establishment of a national Department of Public Health for the entire Republic, and from which much good is expected to result.

The Union of Stevedores and Laborers of Vera Cruz has demanded a regular wage of $6 daily, while the employers wish only to pay them by the hour of actual employment. The Governmental Labor Commission will be called upon unless the question is settled between the parties interested.

General Jose I. Lugo has been appointed Director of the Department of Labor, which is under the newly created Department of Commerce and Industry, and will at once commence a careful examination of the conditions of labor throughout the entire Republic, with the view of establishing better conditions.

The authorities of Vera Cruz have directed that all saloons and places where alcoholic beverages are sold shall be closed at six in the evening. The proprietors of such establishments have entered a protest, but the authorities have positively refused to recede, claiming it is for the benefit of the public to enforce the order.

General Jesus J. Ferreira has been appointed Governor of the new State of Nayarit, formerly the Territory of Tepic.

Mexico's Foreign Trade

Enormous and Increasing Demand for Her Products in the United States

In order to give an exact idea of the importance to Mexico of the commerce done by the United States in products grown on our soil, beneath the ardent rays of the tropical sun, we quote below figures taken from official statistics showing the importations during three different epochs, from which will be seen the enormous consumption in the United States of the articles referred to. And in order to better appreciate the undeniable interest which Mexico takes in the development of this traffic, neighbors as we are, and producing on our soil, as we do, practically all the articles given below, we mention also the population of the United States on the three dates referred to.

With such a population, what will be the consumption of tropical products? It will amount to billions of dollars. What a great prospect for the neighbor on the South, Mexico! What a future for our tropical agriculture! What a field for the investment of capital! The Mexican mines are acknowledged to be the richest in the world, and the petroleum deposits discovered on the Gulf coast promise to inundate both hemispheres with that fluid; but neither the mines nor the petroleum compare to the wealth Mexico will obtain from the traffic in the products grown in the tropics, having, as she does, at her doorway a market which she could not totally supply if every inch of her fertile soil were to be cultivated.

Product	1875	1900	1914
Quinine			
Fine woods	896,962	2,430,702	7,124,688
Cocoa and chocolate	595,128	6,210,035	21,503,983
Coffee	50,591,488	52,467,943	111,456,524
Cork	108,047	1,909,483	6,499,632
Cotton	408,808	7,969,945	20,803,635
Dyes and colors	973,519	1,083,664	3,337,228
Plumes	9,204	1,736,458	4,871,663
Fibers	2,147,811	24,277,272	51,539,636
Fruits	13,086,459	19,263,092	61,595,395
Gums	2,807,164	6,884,704	12,741,609
Rubber and Guttapercha	4,675,490	31,792,607	72,156,437
Indigo	649,724	1,446,490	1,093,226
Licorice root	953,928	1,657,256	2,047,192
Raw and prepared opium	2,037,793	2,189,721	1,810,429
Rice	1,547,697	2,279,036	7,652,017
Tapioca			
Olive Oil	230,890	411,029	8,394,190
Raw silk	4,918,350	45,329,760	100,930,025
Spices	2,285,525	3,401,029	5,595,509
Sponges	118,129	536,303	481,973
Sugar and Molasses	85,014,578	85,949,891	156,534,946
Tea	22,673,303	10,558,110	16,735,302
Tobacco	6,861,384	15,661,360	35,608,109
Vanilla	348,120	1,209,334	2,277,675
Vegetable Oils	1,806,613	6,320,711	23,130,549
Totals	205,746,114	332,975,955	735,921,572

As may be seen from the above figures, during the period from 1875 to 1914 there was an increase in the consumption of tropical products in the United States amounting to $530,175,458.

The population on the three different dates mentioned was as follows: 1875, 43,951,000; 1900, 75,994,575; 1914, 98,646,491.

In forty years the population has more than doubled. If it continues increasing at this rate, by the end of the present century the United States will have more than four hundred million inhabitants, and the consumption of tropical products in the same ratio will amount to three billions of dollars. And in another century or two the population of that country will no doubt exceed that of western Europe, which is calculated at four hundred and fifty millions, and is scattered over a territory but little greater than that of the United States, the area of western Europe being about ten million square kilometers, and that of the United States nine and a half millions.

If Mexico aspires to be a great, strong and rich Nation, she must not lose sight of this market; nor fail to improve the opportunity which nature has given her of cultivating products which her neighbor on the north, who cannot grow them in her frigid climate, must import from other lands to feed her enormous population, and provide material for her numerous factories.

This stream of gold which flows year after year from the United States to distant countries that grow the same products that are produced on Mexican soil, should be diverted to us, and it is to accomplish this that the *News* is making these studies for the benefit of the country, whose geographical situation places it in such an admirable position to control the neighboring markets in competition with the other tropical countries.—*Mexican News.*

Two new nautical schools are to be established by the Department of War and Navy—one in Campeche and the other at Mazatlan, Sinaloa.

Three Years' Trade Record

The National City Bank of New York has compiled the following interesting statistics showing the commerce between Mexico and the United States during the past three years, each year given being for the twelve months ending with December:

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS FROM MEXICO

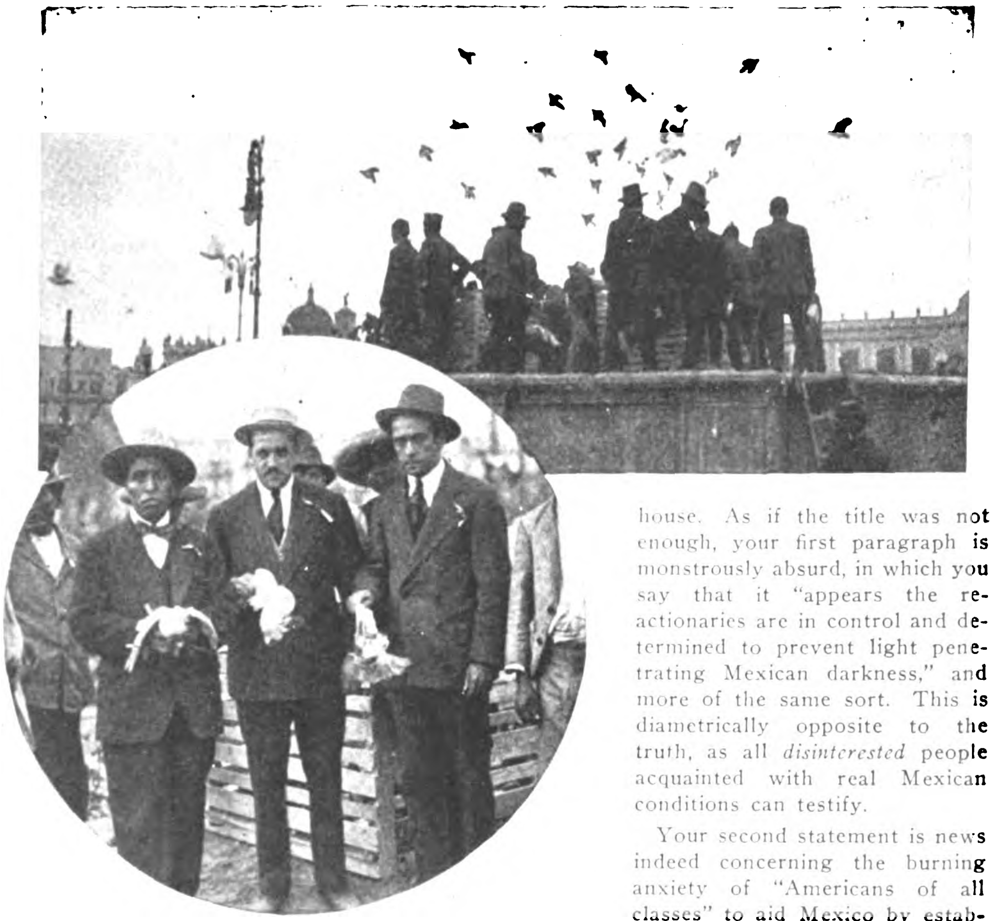
	1914	1915	1916
Coffee, lbs.	43,551,343	52,205,373	51,779,324
"	$6,755,955	$6,625,840	$6,686,181
Copper Ore, gross weight, tons	80,518	71,067	163,163
Copper Ore, copper cont., lbs	15,495,694	14,707,724	33,525,559
Copper Ore	$1,882,728	$1,906,324	$7,394,396
Copper manufactures, lbs.	43,193,868	15,973,838	62,391,123
Copper manufactures	$6,009,328	$2,726,367	$14,197,120
Sisal Grass, tons	197,340	176,055	211,321
" "	$22,283,373	$19,133,777	$25,479,127
Straw Hats, etc.	$239,313	$397,127	$207,152
Hides, Cattle, lbs.	37,750,732	50,808,523	32,374,236
" "	$6,367,722	$8,357,078	$5,876,718
Goat skins, lbs.	4,008,561	3,304,193	4,345,916
" "	$1,165,461	$901,095	$1,218,422
Lead and Lead manufactures, lbs.	46,267,361	93,558,927	37,678,597
Lead and Lead manufactures	$1,498,510	$3,152,196	$1,828,445
Mahogany, 1,000 ft.	7,617	7,446	7,069
Mahogany	$512,785	$471,445	$535,389

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS TO MEXICO

	1914	1915	1916
Agricultural Implements	$127,609	$96,810	$196,699
Corn, bu.	782,005	2,883,700	3,498,948
Wheat, bu.	260,364	132,471	42,319
Automobiles	$111,334	$160,467	$603,776
Coal, bituminous, tons	359,802	279,013	196,547
Coal, bituminous	$1,450,402	$1,237,153	$736,171
Cotton, unmanufactured, bales	29,655	33,133	4,520
Cotton, unmanufactured, lbs.	15,872,670	17,660,560	2,367,750
Cotton, unmanufactured	$1,455,366	$1,858,186	$307,198
Cotton Cloths, yds.	8,231,870	11,761,191	61,088,413
Cotton Cloths	$690,771	$863,207	$4,781,596
Locomotives, steam	2	17	54
Locomotives, steam	$15,510	$168,300	$384,805
Pipes and Fittings cast, lbs.	....	1,981,079	10,224,797
Wrought Pipes, lbs.	....	11,286,231	23,494,808
Rails for Railways, tons	960	2,653	3,959
Iron, Steel Sheets and Plates, lbs.	5,536,578	4,284,430	6,983,790
Structural Iron and Steel, tons	1,616	1,272	3,597
Tinplate, etc., lbs.	3,488,252	7,710,940	3,828,929
Wire, barbed, etc., lbs.	5,692,724	3,585,393	3,609,808
Wire, barbed, etc.	$137,620	$105,262	$155,038
Bacon, lbs.	225,342	136,391	313,248
Lard, lbs.	2,988,262	6,465,558	10,363,916
Oils: Crude, gals.	9,207,354	10,132,665	7,972,448
Lubricating, gals.	694,436	745,739	619,608
Cottonseed, lbs.	6,347,683	3,198,312	999,712
Paper, News Print, lbs.	1,342,640	4,525,022	5,537,920
Paraffine Wax, lbs.	9,216,906	5,088,646	3,581,732
Boards, Planks, etc. M ft.	46,878	31,054	44,085
Wool wearing apparel	....	$236,921	$276,630

From various portions of the Republic is received information of the establishment of periodicals, both daily and weekly. Publishers are greatly hampered by the scarcity and high price of white paper.

The authorities of the city of Campeche have refused the application of a prominent citizen for permission to open a saloon on the principal thoroughfare of the place, on the ground that the building selected is needed for the establishment of a new school, which they declare in their refusal to grant the permission is of such paramount importance to the public welfare as not to admit of discussion.



Thousands of Doves Freed at Inauguration Festivities

Comment on the Constitution

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 1, 1917.

To the Editor of the MEXICAN REVIEW.

SIR: Some time since the New York *Independent* commented upon certain phases of the New Mexican Constitution in a manner that I and others believed warranted a protest. In accordance with this belief I sent that paper the accompanying letter, which has not, however, so far, made its appearance in its columns. In the interest of fair play, truth and common justice, I ask that THE REVIEW give it space in its pages.

Yours truly,
S. J. MACFARREN.

To the Editor of the Independent:

Allow a surprised reader, representing others who have had confidence in your leadership in public matters, to apply its own language to your editorial of March 26th, entitled "The Elimination of Religion and Education from Mexico." It is truly a "most amazing" paper, in tone, in statement, in inference and in spirit, to say nothing of taste. Does your controlling interest deem this a good time to insult and anger every loyal citizen of our good neighbor Mexico, with whom we are at peace despite some delicacy in present relations? Do you consider it good morals or patriotic citizenship?

Your article is of the war-producing type which promises so much trouble for our country, and its hostile animus is about as safe in the present crisis as a match in a powder house. As if the title was not enough, your first paragraph is monstrously absurd, in which you say that it "appears the reactionaries are in control and determined to prevent light penetrating Mexican darkness," and more of the same sort. This is diametrically opposite to the truth, as all *disinterested* people acquainted with real Mexican conditions can testify.

Your second statement is news indeed concerning the burning anxiety of "Americans of all classes" to aid Mexico by establishing free schools (which Diaz did a generation gone), "free press" (do you think theirs is not as free as your own organ?), "free churches" (which they have had since 1857). Mexico, religion perhaps excepted, neither wants nor needs foreign teachers any more than we do. How many patriotic Americans want German teachers for their sons?

Governor Alvarado's (Yucatan) school system, which is at least as progressive as anything in America, gets along very well without foreign teachers, thank you.

Then you soar in excitement about the "diabolical cunning with which the Mexican Constitution is drawn up" and you quote from the new one: "Every religious act of public worship shall be performed strictly within the places of public worship, which shall at all times be under governmental supervision." If that seems extreme to you, it is because you know nothing of the clerical tyranny against which it is directed and under which Mexico suffered for centuries, and you further support your case by quoting the provision of the new Constitution that all places of public worship are the property of the nation; but you entirely omit, with intention unexplained, to state that this provision is in the *old* Constitution since '57; and I have yet to hear any complaint of it from disinterested sources; and then you make the monstrous statement, for a society like ours, in which church and state are strictly separate, as is the church and education, "that the ministers are prohibited from the exercise of their highest function—that of influence on public affairs," meaning, of course, politics. The writer denies this in the name of a sainted father, who preached in the same pulpit for forty-two years, without meddling with public affairs. And it can be conclusively denied in the name of the Savior of men, who commanded his followers to "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Your article is quite unsparing in condemnation of Mexican political corruption. Are you acquainted with the real conditions in your own city and State?

Your editorial carries on further about the provision that "ministers must be natives of Mexico"; which, from years of residence in Mexico, with some knowledge of the Spanish language, I consider, as do practically all Mexican statesmen, a necessary provision for their present safety; nor do I think it aimed at Americans or at Protestants, but at the Jesuit political hierarchy. You further laugh at the idea of legislative control of the number of churches. One would think you believe there cannot be too much of a good thing. What authority do you think *ought* to regulate the number of churches in a country like Mexico? Coming nearer home, do you approve of the continuing divisions in the Presbyterian and Methodist bodies, for instance, which are designated geographically, and which make a mock of the Gospel they preach by perpetuating the distrust of the Civil War in the pulpit, long after even politicians are ashamed of it?

As to muzzling the press, which we are now doing for the same reasons as Mexico—self-protection—various interests with offices within a mile of yours, and at least one other interest which is never rated commercially, have long muzzled our metropolitan press, including your valued journal. To make a long story short, you have not made a point from beginning to end of the editorial in question, for want of the Mexican atmosphere and angle of vision.

Your concluding paragraph is saturated with the same un-American confusion of thought already noted. After acknowledging Rome's responsibility for Mexican conditions in that they are bred by centuries of Romish misrule, you say that "tolerance, not intolerance, is the proper remedy for them." Perhaps so, if the sentiment is confined to *religion*, but absolutely *false* if politics be included. You seem to want to hark back to the exploded theory of religious persecution in Mexico, which convulsed our office-ridden editorial rooms last year, but it won't do, dear *Independent;* it may be all right, but it won't *do.* Mexico is not only *tolerant* of the Romish religion, but *devoted* to it in preference to all others. Most Mexicans *love* it, and *all* of them respect it. What Mexican patriots naturally despise and detest is Romish politics, which have wrought them so much damage. And they show here in practice a correct discrimination which is quite absent from your editorial, and indeed from our timid metropolitan press generally. They have learned, in common with most other countries dominated by Rome, what Protestant countries like our own seem very slow to realize, as our own hard-working and continually slandered patriotic Jesuits can testify.

S. J. MACFARREN.

Washington, April 15, 1917.

New Oil Taxation Decree

Following is the Text of the New Oil Tax Decree, Brief Synopses of which were Telegraphed at the Time of its Issue

THE Citizen in charge of the Executive Power issued recently the following Decree:

Venustiano Carranza, First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, in charge of the Executive Power of the Nation, by virtue of the powers with which I am invested;

Whereas, The production of petroleum in the country, due to the great development which it has acquired in recent years, must become a fount of income for the Federal Treasury, proportionate with the great profits derived therefrom by the Companies and concerns dedicated to the oil industry; that it is expedient to exempt from the special Stamp Tax such petroleum as is consumed within the country, for the purpose of encouraging industry by supplying abundant and cheap fuel; that in view of the varied quality of the petroleum produced in the Republic, and the consequent variation of commercial value, therefore the tax must take into consideration the value of each product in order to be reasonable and equitable; that a considerable quantity of the liquid is not utilized owing to lack of the necessary requirements in the exploration work and daily handling, causing frequent losses, not only to the Companies interested, but also to Government due to the income that it fails to receive;

Therefore, I have deemed proper to issue the following Decree:

Article 1. All petroleum in a crude state of national production, its derivates, and well gas, from the moment it leaves the fields or reservoirs, shall be subjected to a special stamp tax, as follows:

A. All crude petroleum of national production, as well as fuel petroleum which is not destined to be used within the country, shall pay the tax in accordance with the following tariff:

Fuel petroleum shall pay 10 per centum per net ton ad valorem; this value shall be considered for fuel oil, of 0.91 density at $9.50. The value of the ton of fuel oil shall diminish twenty cents for each increase of one hundredth of density, including in this variation the petroleum whose density may be 0.97.

The value of fuel oil, whose density may be less than 0.91, shall increase for each hundredth which it may diminish in density, the sum of forty cents.

The price of $7.50 per ton is assigned per ton to all petroleum whose density may be greater than 0.97.

Crude petroleum shall pay 10 per centum per net ton ad valorem; said value shall be considered as $14.00 for oils of 0.91 density, diminishing in the same manner that fuel oil, up to a density of 0.97.

Fuel oil for the use of tug-boats and tank steamers employed in exportation shall be subject to preceding tariff.

The products derived from refining crude petroleum and the utilization of gas from the wells not to be consumed in the country, shall pay as follows:

Refined gasoline, half of one cent per litre.

Crude gasoline, one cent per litre.

Crude kerosene, half of one cent per litre.

Refined kerosene, one quarter of one cent per litre.

Lubricant, one quarter of one cent per litre.

Asphalt, $1.50 per ton.

Gas, 5 per centum ad valorem.

B. Crude petroleum and its derivates, when wasted in any quantity, either through carelessness or lack of compliance with legal provisions, shall pay a double tax from that corresponding to similar products. Products derived from the natural gas from the wells whenever wasted owing to the same reasons, shall pay 10 per centum of their commercial value.

Art. 2. The following shall be exempted from the special stamp tax, save such as may correspond to them on sales as per Law of June 1, 1906:

A. All crude petroleum which may be consumed in the country, either due to sales, use in exploration work, or exploitation in the fields and terminals of the Companies; such as may be delivered to the refineries of the country to be refined or used as fuel; such as may be used by the steamers or tug-boats destined to coast service or in general, all the crude petroleum of national production which may be used in any form within the country.

B. All by-products of crude petroleum of national production, whatever may be its class or physical state, which may be sold or utilized in any form whatever, within the country, always provided they may have been elaborated at the national refineries, in the fields or terminals of the companies, whatever may have been the process employed.

Art. 3. For the purpose of the present Decree, there shall be understood as crude petroleum, the natural product, such as it issues from the sources or wells, always provided that they do not contain more than one per centum of water or sediment, for should it contain a greater proportion, then from the total weight there shall be deducted the equivalent to the proportion per centum that it may exceed the aforesaid one per cent, upon making the liquidation of the respective tax.

Under the denomination of refined petroleum shall be understood all the products, solid or liquid proceeding from crude petroleum, whatever may be the process employed, whether mechanical, physical or chemical, which may give as a result the separation of one or more of the substances which compose the original product. From this excepted the operation of water elimination, always provided it be performed without the intervention of heat, and that it result in the separation of the components of the crude petroleum.

Crude gasoline is the distillate corresponding to this product which has not received treatment of redistillation and purifying with acid and alkali; crude kerosene is the distillate corresponding to this product which has not received any treatment of redistillation and purifying with acid and alkali. Refined gasoline and kerosene are such as have received treatment of redistillation and purifying by means of acid and alkali.

As petroleum fuel are considered the liquid products proceeding from crude petroleum or the mixtures of petroleums from which have been eliminated certain oils to lower their point of inflaming. Fuel oils are included among the refined oils, there being effected, however, a special classification for the purposes of the tax.

Art. 4. In order to be able to establish the tax which according to paragraph A of Article 1 corresponds to each one of the products derived from petroleum, the Department of the Treasury shall stipulate twice a month the prices of said articles at the ports of shipment, taking the average of the values of the preceding month. The manifests or invoices submitted by the Companies covering sales of the same articles throughout the Republic, shall serve as basis to make the aforesaid computation. In case that there be not effected sales in the country, the average price of said product at New York shall be taken for the preceding month or at some other ports of the United States, deducting the value of transportation of the said products from the Mexican ports to the foreign ports. In the absence of proven data to make the previous calculation, there shall be assigned a price equal to that obtaining in United States for the same articles, as regards their physical properties, affixing upon this price the corresponding tax.

Art. 5. All sums to be paid into the Treasury, in accordance with the present Decree, shall be made up of national gold.

Transitory

Art. 1. All laws, regulations, and provisions which may be opposed to the fulfillment of the present Decree are hereby rescinded.

Art. 2. This Decree shall go into effect from May 1, 1917. Therefore I order that it be printed, published, circulated and complied with.

Constitution and Reforms. Given at the National Palace of Mexico, on the thirteenth day of April of the year nineteen hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

NOTES OF PROGRESS

Active operations have been commenced on the construction of the port works at Progreso, Yucatan, the principal seaport in that State.

The Society of Train Dispatchers and Railway Telegraphers has been reorganized in Mexico City with a large and enthusiastic membership.

A suitable site in the city of Saltillo has been given by Governor Espinosa Mireles to the workingmen for the erection of a building for their use as a clubhouse.

William A. Hay has been granted a concession by the Department of Fomento to exploit the cocoanut, coquito and similar resources of the Territory of Quintana Roo.

The Bureau of Agriculture has opened an office for the testing of various classes of seeds, and all farmers and others interested are invited to make use of the same.

Plans are on foot among the various labor unions of the Federal District, which includes the city of Mexico, for the organization of a federation of the unions of all trades.

Preparations have been completed for the establishment in Monterrey of a plant for the manufacture of films of scenes illustrating progress and present conditions in Mexico.

The Mexican consul at Kobe, Japan, is arranging to secure shipments of white paper by manufacturers in that country to supply the demand in Mexico, where news print is very scarce and high-priced.

Owing to the suspension of the tax on imported automobiles and other machines, there has been a great impetus in the importation of such articles at Tampico, and the customs employes have been overworked in consequence.

The Department of Aviation is extending its operations and three new groups of hangars have recently been constructed in the suburbs of the city of Mexico, while the capacity of the shops for the construction of aeroplanes has also been increased.

Latest available statistics show that the State of Vera Cruz produced in a single year a grand total of $63,600,000, coffee leading with $13,162,000. Sugar yielded $9,989,000, corn $7,775,000, alcohol $7,441,000, timber $5,718,000, tobacco $4,790,000, vanilla $3,630,000, beans $1,798,000, etc.

A concession has been granted to J. H. Mendoza for the exploitation of the guano deposits on the islands of María Cleofas, Marietas, Punta Mita and Piedra Blanca, in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Colima. The terms of the grant are the receipt by the Government of twenty per cent of the total amount extracted.

The Mexican consul at Copenhagen has recommended the establishment of a permanent exhibition in that city of the products of the Republic, in order to encourage trade between the two countries. There is an extensive demand in Denmark for many articles produced in Mexico.

OIL AND MINING

Fifty additional mines in the State of San Luís Potosí have announced the resumption of operations, giving employment to thousands of workingmen.

Reports from Chihuahua are that industrial and mining operations have been resumed in the Parral district and in all portions of the southern section of that State.

Permission has been granted by the Department of Communications for the construction of two wharves on the shores of the Panuco River by concerns engaged in the production and exportation of petroleum.

During the last month for which statistics are available there were exported from the port of Tampico a total of 245,371 tons of petroleum in various forms. The Huasteca Company (an American concern) led all others with 95,300 tons.

The Company for the Development of the Southeast has been granted ample accommodations for the construction of all the works at Progreso necessary for handling petroleum for use in the State of Yucatán. The plant will be an extensive one.

The wells that are being sunk in the Tampico district by the National Government under the direction of Alberto Langarica, C.E., are approaching completion and it is expected a large supply of oil will be secured. They are equipped with the most modern machinery.

Some of the largest mines in the Republic are sending their entire output of bullion to the National Mint for coinage and it has been found necessary to augment the employes of that institution in order to handle the matter satisfactorily and promptly.

Consular reports from points in the United States declare that there is a constantly increasing demand for coal in that country that is produced in Mexico, and a great stimulus is expected in the coal fields of Coahuila in consequence.

The total production of petroleum in the Republic in 1916 was 40,550,469 barrels. In 1900 the production was 18,000 barrels; in 1905, 650,000 barrels; in 1910, 3,500,000 barrels; in 1911, 14,500,000 barrels; in 1913, 15,575,000 barrels; in 1914, 26,325,000 barrels, and in 1915, 38,655,000 barrels.

Secretary Pani, of the Department of Commerce and Industry, announces positively that the Government has no intention whatever of "intervening" (confiscating) regarding the property of any foreign petroleum company, and he declares that all reports in the press to the contrary are absolutely false.

The Department of Fomento has granted to Frank L. Semple a concession to construct a public pipe line for handling petroleum and for the construction of wharves and other shipping facilities at the port of Tuxpam and at three points on Lake Tamiahua. In return for the concession the recipient agrees to construct a building for public use at whatever point the Government may select, such to cost not less than $20,000.

EDUCATIONAL

Night schools have been established in Jutla, Oaxaca, for the convenience of adults and others who are unable to attend the day schools.

Lic. Luís Manuel Rojas, who was President of the Constituent Congress which adopted the new Constitution, has been installed as Director-General of Fine Arts.

Four new schools for working people have recently been established in the city of Toluca, capital of the State of Mexico. They are for children and adults of both sexes and are well attended.

A model agricultural school has been established at Irapuato, in the State of Guanajuato, a locality famous for the production of choice strawberries, which are harvested daily throughout the year.

A rural normal school has been established in Yucatán, "in imitation of the example set by Booker T. Washington." It is to be called the "Student City of the Mayas," and an admirable location has been chosen in the pueblo of Itzimna.

The State authorities of Sinaloa have served notice upon all parents and those having children in their charge that they must send them regularly to school, or otherwise they will be dealt with in a salutary manner. It is proposed that every child of suitable age shall be obliged to receive an education.

The school teachers of Yucatán (who are greater in number than the entire military force in that State) have organized a cooperative society for supplying members with all kinds of food articles and general merchandise at wholesale rates. They will also establish dairies, poultry farms, gardens, bakeries, etc.

The National Library is receiving many improvements, among others the addition of an Infantile Department for literature adapted to the very young. The work of classifying and cataloguing the large number of books in the institution is well under way, over sixty thousand volumes having already been arranged during the present year.

The police authorities of the city of Mérida, capital of Yucatán, have taken strict measures against the adulteration of milk and punish severely any violating the law in this direction.

General Ignacio Pesquiera has been appointed Governor of the State of Sinaloa, pending the election that has been called to fill that position. There are six candidates now in the field.

The Department of Fomento has nullified the concession granted in 1912 to J. N. Rondero to exploit seaweed on the coast between Mazatlán and Topolobampo. Failure to comply with the terms of the concession was the cause.

Natives of Mexico going from that country to the United States are required to pay $8 each for the privilege of entry, and must also be able to read and write idiomatic English, or, in default, to do the same in their own language.

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FIELD OF LABOR

The salaries of all public employes in the State of San Luis Potosi have been increased twenty-five per cent, in order to keep pace with the high cost of living.

A corps of 600 cavalrymen, after the fashion of the former rurales, has been equipped in Sonora to act as mounted police in the outlying regions.

The work of dredging and otherwise improving the harbor of Tampico and the Panuco River is progressing rapidly and shipping accommodations for deep-water vessels are being rapidly augmented.

The wages of all employes in the textile factories of the State of Mexico have been increased at the ratio of thirty per cent for those working by the day and forty per cent for piece workers.

A Congress of Workingmen in all the textile establishments of the State of Puebla has been called by the Governor under authorization of President Carranza for the purpose of discussing various measures for the betterment of the condition of the workers in every direction. This State is one of the leading manufacturing centers of the Republic.

Following the recent convention of railway shop employes in Mexico City, which dealt satisfactorily with various questions affecting the welfare of that class of workmen, another Congress was held in May of the trainmen, conductors, engineers, firemen, etc., which took up problems affecting their branch of the service, with good results. All labor matters are being handled in this manner throughout the Republic.

FINANCIAL

The rates of import duty on packages sent by parcel post from other countries have been directed to be increased one hundred per cent.

The export duty on garbanzos (a species of field pea in great demand abroad and purchased extensively on the Mexican west coast) has been decreased from six cents to three cents per kilo—corresponding to 1.38 and .69 cents per pound respectively.

All tax collectors in every portion of the Republic have been instructed to make prompt and frequent remittances of moneys collected by them to the National Treasury, in order that there may be as large an accumulation of coin therein as possible.

For a portion of the month of April the Treasury Department established the rate of exchange at which American money would be received for import duties at $1.70 Mexican coin for $1 in American paper, silver, nickel or copper, and at $1.95 for each gold dollar.

The outstanding paper currency, or "infalsificable" bills, is to be returned to the National Treasury by the imposition of a surtax in that money equal to the amount imposed in coin on all imports, exports and mineral products. As a result, the paper referred to is increasing rapidly in value, although not in circulation.

Recent quotations of paper money in Mexico City show that the notes for one dollar of the National Bank are valued at 33 to 34 cents, while those of the Bank of London and Mexico are valued at 19 to 20 cents. "Infalsificable" bills, the last Government issue, which are no longer in circulation, are quoted at $40 to $42 for $1 in coin.

RAIL AND WIRE

A telephone system is to be established in the city of Merida, with branch lines to all important points in the State of Yucatan.

Beginning with the early part of April, railway communication was re-established directly between the Capital City and Juarez, via Torreon and Chihuahua.

During the year 1916, the National railway lines consumed 364,798 cubic meters of petroleum as fuel. Not half of the locomotives of the lines are oil burners.

An employe of the railway shops in Mexico City has perfected a device for the automatic stoppage of trains, by which accidents can be prevented when an engineer overruns or pays no attention to the adverse signals.

Under date of April 19th it was announced that the repairs to the railway between Orizaba and Vera Cruz had been completed and the regular operation of trains had been commenced.

Receipts for passenger and freight traffic have increased notably on the Mexican Railway since it was taken over by the Government, while trains are operated with much greater regularity. The shops at Orizaba and Apizaco are busily repairing the rolling stock and putting it again in commission.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

To Country Editors and Farmers:

If you want to learn all about the biggest and most successful farmer's coöperative system in the world, you should study the organization of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen of Yucatan.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for the advance in prices and what interests are back of the very costly campaign that is being waged against the Yucatan coöperative marketing system, you should read the SISAL BULLETIN, published every two weeks.

Millions of dollars are being spent by certain wealthy individuals and powerful corporations to regain control over the world's supply of the fibre that is used exclusively, almost, in the manufacture of binder twine for the American farmers. The Sisal Bulletin will keep you posted on this gigantic fight. A postcard or letter will get your name on the permanent mailing list and you will be glad that you found it. It is free.

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Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO
THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT
TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE
CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT
OF THE
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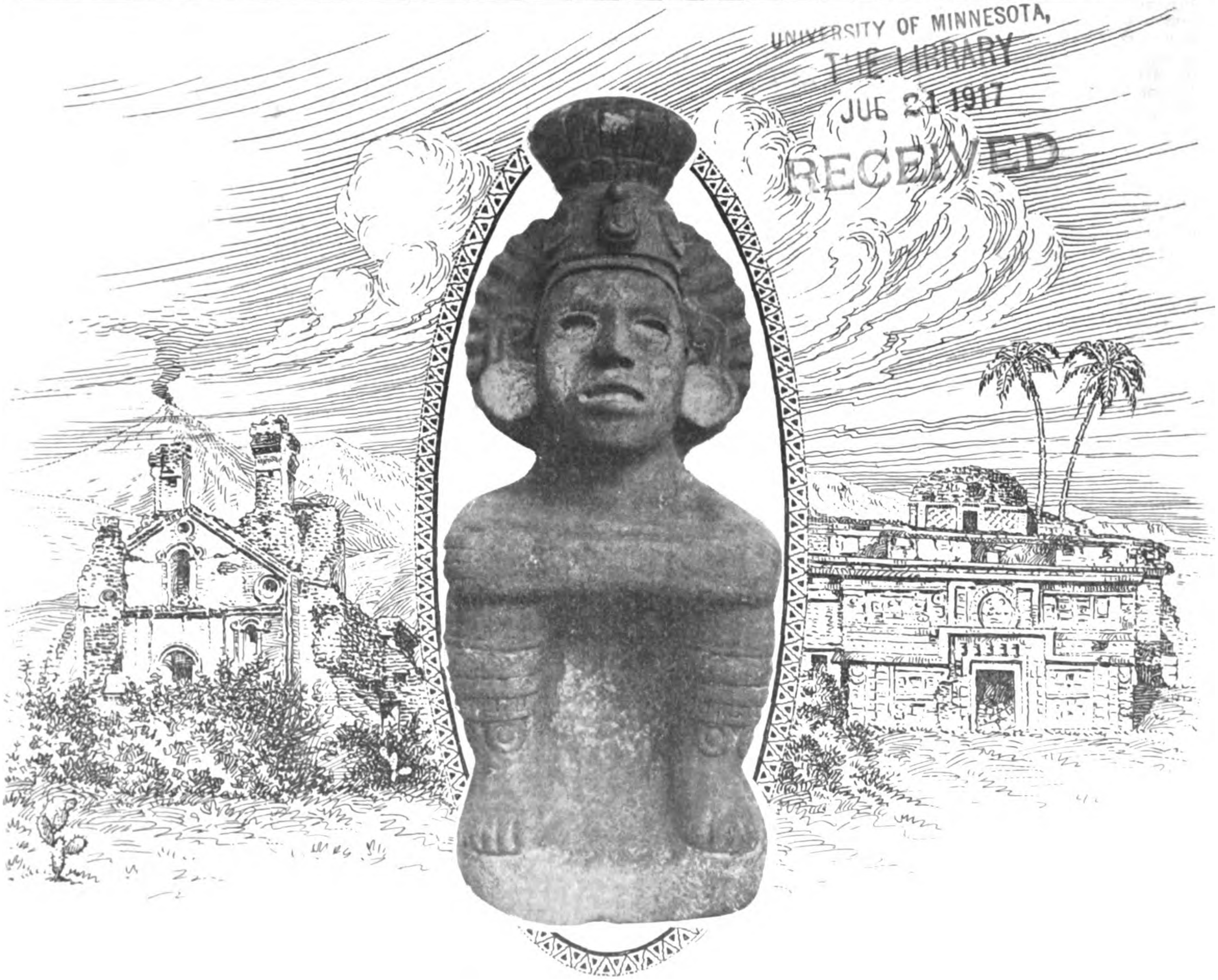

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Personal Statement of President Carranza

Explicit Denial and Disproof of the Assertion That He Ever Contemplated Recognizing Huerta

I HAVE read an article which the Pittsburgh *Dispatch*, of Pittsburgh, Penna., published on the 2d of May last, in which it is stated that Senator Knox, of Pennsylvania, ex-Secretary of State, delivered a speech making reference to the message that I read to the Congress of the United States of Mexico, on the 15th of April, and in which he undertakes to correct my statements, and submits as purported proof of his allegations the copy of a telegram which, he said, was sent from Saltillo on the 21st of February, 1913, by the American Consul, Holland, to the Department of State of the Washington Government. For the information of the public, I transcribe herein what Senator Knox said, according to the dispatch published by the paper referred to:

> Mr. President, I rise to a matter of personal privilege, which will take only a few moments. On the 27th day of April, 1916, in a public address I made in the city of Pittsburgh before the Americus Club, in speaking of the recognition by large numbers of the Mexican people and large areas of the Mexican Republic of the accession of Gen. Huerta, I used this language:
>
> "It was the judgment of the diplomats representing foreign countries in Mexico that the provisional government in Mexico had been installed in compliance with the Mexican constitution and Mexican precedent, and that its speedy recognition would be helpful in restoring normal conditions throughout the country. The American ambassador shared this view and asked for instructions. Gen. Carranza, who at that time was governor of one of the Mexican States, had officially informed this Government of his adherence to the new government; the Mexican Congress and courts had recognized its authority, and advices from our diplomatic and consular officers indicated a very general adherence to its authority throughout the Republic."
>
> A few days after the publication of that address, on the 7th day of May, there was published an article in the New York World by Gen. Carranza in which he referred to the statement I have just read. Gen. Carranza said:
>
> "It was impossible for me to have adhered to Huerta or to have notified anyone that I had, for upon the very day I received a message from Huerta inviting me to adhere to him, I officially proclaimed that I disclaimed him and his government. Knox can not prove his statement."
>
> I was requested to give an interview in reply to that statement by Gen. Carranza. I declined to do it, stating that there would be time enough for me to take cognizance of such a statement when what I had said had been denied upon the authority of the State Department where the archives rested proving my statement.
>
> I would have let the matter go at that, but a few days ago, in an address to the Mexican Congress, Gen. Carranza revived this denial and stated that I had, in an interview recently in regard to the situation in Mexico, practically reiterated that statement, and he denounced it as false.
>
> I wish to say, Mr. President, that from the time I ceased to be Secretary of State until this very moment I never gave out an interview upon any matter pertaining to the foreign affairs of the United States at any time or in any place, and so far as I know no interview purporting to have come from me has ever been published in an American newspaper.
>
> I send to the desk and ask that there may be read in the order in which they are arranged a letter I addressed to the Secretary of State, his reply, and the inclosure of his reply, as follows:
>
> April 18, 1917.
>
> "Hon. Robert Lansing,
> Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.
>
> Dear Mr. Lansing: In a report made by Gen. Carranza to the Mexican Congress on the 15th instant, the general took occasion to denounce as entirely false an interview which he alleged I gave out, naming me as Senator Knox, in which he puts into my mouth words I never said, and refers to an interview I never gave, never having given any upon the subject. This all arises out of a statement that I made in a public speech to the effect that within a few days after the accession of Gen. Huerta, Gen. Carranza had notified the American consul in the State of Coahuila that he was prepared to acknowledge the Huerta regime in Mexico. These are not the exact words I used, but they were words to that effect. Within a few days after making this statement there appeared in the New York World an interview with Gen. Carranza, in which he denounced that statement as false.
>
> "I will be obliged to you if you will transmit to me, for the purpose of having the same introduced into the Record, a copy of a telegram received by the Department of State, in which the department is informed as to the intentions of Gen. Carranza in relation to the recognition of Huerta, and which likewise states that this information had been transmitted as well to our embassy in Mexico City. I can not recall the date of this telegram, but it appeared in the information series on the troubles of Mexico, and will be found, I think, under some date in February of 1913.
>
> "Your compliance with this request will enable me to justify my statement and settle an annoying incident. My purpose is to rise to a question of personal privilege and deny that I ever gave an interview such as Gen. Carranza quotes, or any interview at all on the subject, and to produce the telegram as an authority for the only statement that I have ever made in reference to the matter.
>
> Very sincerely yours.
> P. C. KNOX."

Secretary Lansing readily complied with the request of Senator Knox, and sent him a copy of the following official telegram regarding the question, and which shows that Carranza did exactly what Mr. Knox says he had done:

> [Telegram received from Saltillo, Dated Feb. 21, 1913, received Feb. 22, 1.22 a. m.]
> Secretary of State,
> Washington, D. C.
> February 21, 1 p. m.:
>
> Gov. Carranza has just announced to me officially that he will conform with the new administration at Mexico City. All opposition here abandoned. Railroads will be opened at once. Perfect quiet prevails. Embassy advised. HOLLAND.

This closes the incident as far as it concerns Senator Knox, and this correspondence is now incorporated into the archives (or records) of Congress, and made part of history.

I now find myself under the necessity of again rectifying (or correcting) the statements made by Mr. Knox, who affirms that I recognized the usurper, Victoriano Huerta, after the *coup d'etat* which he engineered in Mexico City, on the 18th of February, 1913, because not only is this confirmation false, as I have already stated in the message which I read to the Congress of the Union, on the 15th of April of this year, but also because the personal feeling of the Senator who has dealt in this question gives more or less veracity to a declaration by the Consul, Holland, which, he said, he had obtained from me, but who has no proof that I did so, as this was only one of the ruses employed during the course of events immediately following those of the 18th of February, 1913, with the object of giving the Government of the United States the impression that all the governors of the various Federal Entities of the Republic had accepted the new order of things, and, therefore, it was due that the American Government should also recognize the usurping government.

In no other way is explained the hardly honorable behavior of the then Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson, for while on one hand he communicated with Consul Holland by telegraph, directing him to exert pressure on me so that I would recognize Huerta as President of the Republic, with assurances that he had already been recognized as such by the governors of all the States and by the representatives of all the foreign governments, including those of the United States, accredited to Mexico, and acknowledging the fact that I was the only one who had refused to grant said recognition; on the other hand, Consul Holland, with the object of helping Ambassador Wilson in his designs, was addressing the Department of State, assuring it that I had made the official statement to the effect that I would give my approval to the new administration in Mexico City, and this was done, as it will be clearly seen, with the object of making it appear to the Government of the United States that the regime created by the *coup d'etat* of February 18th had been accepted by all the political entities of the country, with which allegations General Huerta and Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson hoped to also obtain the recognition of the new administration by the American Government.

The untruthfulness of these statements is shown by my unchanging attitude from the time that I knew of what took place in the Capital of the Republic, on the 18th of February, because when General Huerta communicated to me that, in accord with the Senate, he had assumed the Executive Power of the Nation, and held as prisoners the President and Vice-President, who had been duly elected, I brought these facts to the knowledge of the Legislature of Coahuila, which body issued, on the 19th of February, decree No. 1421, by means of which, and in representation of the State, whose government was under my charge, the character of Victoriano Huerta, as Chief Executive of the Nation, was repudiated; his acts were also repudiated, and extraordinary powers were granted to me in all the branches of public administration for the purpose of assisting in the maintenance of constitutional order in the Republic, and by which it was ordered to arouse the governments of all the States, the chiefs of the Federal forces, Rurales and auxiliary forces of the Federation, so that they might follow the course taken by the government of Coahuila.

Immediately I addressed by telegraph the governors of the neighboring States, informing them that the government of Coahuila had repudiated the unspeakable assault against the fundamental pact; had repudiated the government of Victoriano Huerta, and invited all the governors and military chiefs to place themselves on the side of law and order.

When my attitude was known in Mexico City, Ambassador Wilson instructed Consul Holland to exert pressure on me with the object of changing that attitude, and, in fact, the said Consul, accompanied by Vice-Consul Silliman, who acted as his interpreter, came to me and expressed what I have already stated in the foregoing paragraphs.

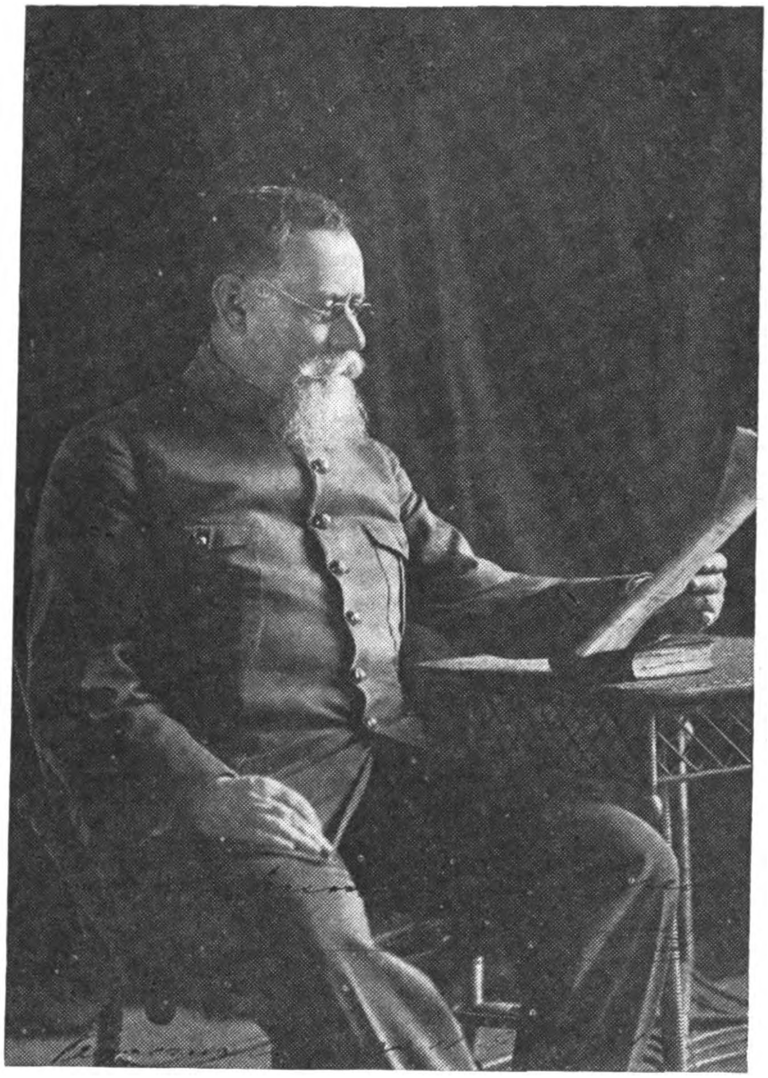
My answer was an absolute refusal to recognize Victoriano Huerta, and so final was this that, notwithstanding the confirmation that the Consul had expressed to me of the allegation that the Government of the United States had recognized that of the usurper, I addressed, on the 26th, from Ramos Arizpe, via the International Railway, a telegram to President Taft, as follows:

> "The haste with which your Government has recognized the fraudulent Government that Huerta is trying to built upon treason and crime, has brought civil war to the State of Coahuila, which I represent, and very soon it will spread all over the country. The Mexican nation condemns the villainous 'coup d'etat' that has deprived her of her constitutional rulers, but she knows that her institutions are sound and she is ready to uphold and defend them. I hope that your successor will proceed with more caution regarding the social and political interests of my country. Signed—V. Carranza, Constitutional Governor of Coahuila."

This message was altered to a certain extent by Sr. Teodulo R. Beltran, who was at Eagle Pass, and to whom I sent the message to be forwarded by him to Washington, and at whose conduct I was greatly puzzled, for he had no authority to make the said change in the text of my message. The message, as altered by Sr. Beltran and forwarded by him to Washington, read as follows:

> "The Mexican Nation condemns the 'coup d'etat' that has deprived her of her constitutional rulers, who were cowardly assassinated; but she knows that her institutions are sound and she is ready to uphold and defend them. I hope that your Excellency's government, as well as that of your successor, will not recognize the fraudulent government that Huerta is trying to build upon treason and crime, but that you will proceed with caution regarding the political and social interests of my country. Signed —V. Carranza, Constitutional Governor of Coahuila."

I referred to these facts in my report to the Congress of the Union, and also to the second interview which I had with Vice-Consul Silliman at Villa de Arteaga, where I had established my headquarters, a few days after the first interview which I had with Consul Holland, all of which prove that I continued to follow the same course that I had taken since the 19th of February concerning Huerta.



In the meantime I continued making preparations for the struggle, and already I had fought the federal forces, on the 7th of May, at the Hacienda de Anhelo, and I attacked, during the 22d and 23d, the city of Saltillo, which had been occupied by the forces of Huerta.

In order that the Revolution might be provided with a banner, and that it might spread all over the national territory, as the decree of the Legislature of Coahuila only referred to the repudiation by the government of the State of the administration that resulted from the *coup d'etat* of February, there was signed, on the 26th of March, at the Hacienda de Guadalupe, by all the chiefs of the forces that were under my command, the plan that served as the guidon for the continuance of the campaign.

Such acts show that not only did I refuse to recognize the fraudulent government of Huerta, but also that I assumed the command of the Revolution down to its successful termination and this is vouched by the inhabitants of Saltillo, who witnessed the preparations I undertook, dating from the 19th of February, to fight the usurpation. With this I shall consider as closed the discussion which Senator Knox has endeavored to maintain regarding this matter, pretending to justify himself and the government which he served, for the undignified procedure of Ambassador Lane Wilson, and I consider as opportune in frankly acknowledging that the intrigue with which said Ambassador tried to obtain the recognition of the administration of Victoriano Huerta from the Government of President Wilson failed before the uprightness and good judgment of the Government of President Woodrow Wilson, who took charge of his high post on the 4th of March, 1913; also, it should be acknowledged that President Taft, with utmost serenity, in the last days of his constitutional term, refrained from granting the same recognition, leaving to his successor the responsibility of passing upon the events that took place at the Capital of the Republic in the month of February of that year.

V Carranza

Mexico, 15th June, 1917.

The Government has established a financial agency in El Paso, similar to the one in New York City, for the better accommodation of the national business.

The national mint has coined fifteen million dollars in gold during the past five months and improvements are under way that will largely augment the output.

During the month of May a total of forty-seven new commercial organizations registered in the city of Mexico, with an aggregate capital of $3,357,000.

Preparations are being made for the installation of an extensive establishment for the manufacture of arms and ammunition at Juanacatlan, in the State of Jalisco.

Facts About the Oil Tax

Misstatements Are Refuted by the Official Declarations. The Duties Are Not Burdensome

A STATEMENT was recently sent out from this city to the press to the effect that a new and prohibitory tax had been laid by the Mexican Government on petroleum exportations, and it was declared with great positiveness that this had been done for the express purpose of hampering the allies in the European conflict. Many editorials, some of them very bitter and all of them unjust, were published which took the misstatements as their text, and a widespread misapprehension was thereby created.

At the time when these reports were sent from Washington the facts had been in circulation for upward of two months and were accessible to any one desiring to know the truth. The decree regarding the matter was issued on April 13th and within ten days thereafter was translated and published in this city. It was upon this decree that the unfair statements and unjust criticism were founded. On June 9th, however, a modification of the decree was issued and was received here on the 18th, being at once translated and given out. Based apparently on the original decree, the misstatements declared that a valuation of $950 per ton had been placed by the Mexican government on oil for purposes of taxation. This was repeated in a number of publications, so that it can scarcely be ascribed to a typographical error. The fact is that one of the grades of oil was valued at $9.50 per ton (not $950), but this was in Mexican gold, the real valuation in American money being a little more than half that, or $5 per barrel.

The entire matter is elucidated plainly and correctly in the following statements which have already been widely circulated; but which are worthy of careful study by any desiring to know the truth and to understand what looks like the very deliberate misrepresentation that has been effected.

The tax rate on petroleum as established for the months of May and June by the Secretary of the Treasury, as appears in the decree appended, is as follows:

The valuations are:

On crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, $11 per ton.

On combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, $8.50 per ton.

On petroleum with a density of 0.97, $5 per ton.

This is on the basis of Mexican gold and the metric ton of 2,200 pounds. The ratio established by the Mexican Government for the exchange of American money into Mexican is $1.75 Mexican for $1 American paper and $1.90 Mexican for $1 American gold or silver.

The valuations per ton would therefore be:

For the $11 oil, $5.78 American.

For the $8.50 oil, $4.47 American.

For the $5 oil, $2.63 American.

The rate of taxation is 10 per cent ad valorem, and on the first grade the tax would therefore be 57.8 cents per ton; on the second grade 44.7 cents per ton and on the third grade 26.3 cents per ton. Reduced to the barrel, the American standard of oil measurement, official statistics show that of oil with a density of 0.91 there are practically 7 barrels to the ton and of oil of 0.97 density there are practically 6½ barrels to the ton. The first grade of oil would therefore be taxed at the rate of a little over 8 cents per barrel; the second grade at the rate of about 6 1/3 cents per barrel, and the third grade at the rate of about 4 1/3 cents per barrel.

The current quotations on all grades of crude oil in the United States vary from 85 cents to $3.10 per barrel, or $3.92 to $20.10 per metric ton. If an average be taken of $1 per barrel, it will be seen that the valuations set by the Mexican Government are far below that, and that a tax of 4 to 8 cents per barrel can scarcely be considered as prohibitory or excessive. As a matter of fact, experts say that Mexican oil follows very closely in value the product of the Kansas and Oklahoma fields, which is at present $1.70 per barrel or thereabouts.

When the export tax was first put on oil in 1914 it averaged six cents per barrel, at that time no distinction being made as to quality. It was so placed in order to make the large companies pay something in return for the privileges enjoyed, they having been exempted from the production tax under the terms of concessions granted by the Diaz government, and an export tax being the only resource.

Under the decree of April 17th last, the tax was established as given above (10% ad valorem), but the valuations of the oil were placed at from $7.50 to $14 per ton. Under the amended decree these valuations are materially reduced, as shown, and the tax is lowered in keeping with the smaller valuation.

The decree itself is as follows:

IMPOSTS UPON THE EXPORTATION OF PETROLEUM

Mexico City, June 9, 1917.

Office of the Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit—Circular No. 208.

In conformity with the provisions of Article IV of the Decree of April 13th of the present year, this office has resolved, for the collection of imposts on petroleum for exportation, for the two months of May and June of the current year, to fix the valuation as follows:

Combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91 at $8.50 per ton.

Crude petroleum of a density of 0.91 at $11 per ton.

Petroleum of any density greater than 0.97, $5 per ton.

These prices will be applied in the form that will be continued as indicated.* In the case of "Gas Oil" there will be applied the same tariff as to combustible petroleum.

The tariff that will be placed on combustible petroleum for the collection of imposts in the months of May and June, 1917, is fixed in the following manner: From 1000 of specific gravity to 0.971 value per ton $5. From 0.970 specific gravity to 0.910, from $7.30 to $8.50 per ton. This will be increased two cents for each thousandth of density that may be diminished. From 0.909 to 0.870, from $8.54 to $10 per ton, increasing four cents for each thousandth of diminished density.

(*A lengthy table is given showing the amount for each thousandth, but it is not essential here.)

Further inquiry regarding the tax on exports of oil from Mexico shows that, taking the totals for an entire year, the average is seven and one-half barrels to the ton. The impost duties would therefore be four cents per barrel on the lowest grade, six cents on the medium and eight cents on the highest, in place of the straight six cents that has been collected for several years and which was established when the Constitutionalist Government obtained control of the oil fields. While the recently issued decree made no referenc to the "sur-tax" payable in "infalsificable" paper, equal in nominal amount to the coin tax, this was imposed some time ago upon all articles paying export or import duties, and was for the purpose of bringing into the treasury the paper money still outstanding but which had not been in circulation for more than six months. At the current rates of exchange this tax amounts to about eight-tenths of a cent American money per ton for high grade oil and four-tenths of a cent per ton for low grade. It may therefore be regarded as neglible. Recognized authorities who have been consulted declare that the average value of Mexican oil in this and other countries for a long period has been $1 per barrel in American gold, so that the petroleum upon which the valuation of $2.63, $4.47 and $5.78 per ton has been placed by the Mexican Government is actually worth $7.50 per ton.

A systematic exploration of the extensive ruins at San Juan Teotihuacan is about to be inaugurated by the Government.

For the month of May over $1,400,000 national gold were collected at the port of Nuevo Laredo for import and export duties and the amount turned in to the National Treasury.

Katherine Holland Brown: "Contrary to popular belief, the average Mexican is neither a fiend nor a moon-eyed cherub; instead, a human being, and, when treated as such, a surprisingly square human being."—From Millicent—Maker of History.

Scope of the New Oil Laws

Secretary Pani Explains Some of the Requirements Established Under the New Constitution

A STATEMENT with reference to the new laws governing the exploitation of petroleum in Mexico has been made by Ing. Alberto J. Pani, Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Industry, and is published in the local press. Mr. Pani emphasizes the declaration that there will be no taking over of property without full compensation and that there is no basis for alarm on the part of land owners and exploiters of oils as to the application of the new law. He says:

"Land owners have alleged that they are to be deprived of their wealth, but this is not so. Article XXVII of the Constitution is final, clear and admits of no modifications; and it is to it that the question of petroleum must necessarily be submitted. It is open to discussion whether the owner of a piece of land is also the owner of everything under it, in which no one knows the treasure which may be contained.

"All operations of exchange and transfer of ownership as also the recovery of taxes are made upon the surface.

"From the times when Mexico was a Spanish colony there existed regulations to this effect contained in what is known as 'mining ordinances,' in which it was stated that gold, silver and the 'bitumens' of the land belonged to the king.

"Once the national independence was achieved, this law continued in force, that which had previously pertained to the Spanish monarch passing to the dominion of the nation.

"The constitution of 1857 did not destroy its observance, but in the time when Gen. Manuel Gonzales governed this country it was decreed, without approval of Congress or any constitutional reform, that the proprietors of lands should also be proprietors of subsoil.

"It is impossible that there should be transactions in unknown wealth; the most curious thing about it is that the owners of land whose subsoil contains petroleum raise a cry to heaven, when mining, which is a business very adventuresome and uncertain, is regulated by similar laws expropriating the areas which are to be exploited.

"It is a matter of record that almost never have proprietors of lands been the exploiters of subsoil, and it is not to them to whom the development of extractive industries is due.

"Moreover I am able to assure that there is neither basis for raising alarms of any kind nor for land owners cherishing fear that they will be displaced by the new petroleum law, for all area which is to be occupied for the purpose of such extraction or exploitation will receive the indemnification due the owners by whom the business was undertaken.

"Furthermore payment will be made to them for damages which they may receive in this connection.

"When the question is considered from the other point of view, it is found to be a fact that owners of land explored or exploited receive very much increased sums of money which would probably not have been produced in crops or cattle raising. Those who have put out large sums to start these enterprises and to put them in operation have, therefore, the right, also to receive the fruit of their labors, for they have paid the government the fees for exploitation.

"The contracts which have been entered into previous to the date on which the new law goes into effect certainly will have a point in that same thing, which will assure them consideration to the end that no damage be done to interests legitimately acquired.

"Furthermore there should be no lack of confidence created by those who have undertaken explorations, as to investing sufficient money to exploit those fabulous national riches.

"That which has to do with taxes upon exploitation of mineral oil is a subject for the Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit."

The Grounds of the Government For Taxing Petroleum Exports

With reference to this important matter Engineer Antonio Madrazo, in charge of the Sub-Secretaryship of Finance and Public Credit, has made to the press the following statement:

"The imposts lately decreed tax petroleum at a rate more equitable than formerly. No crude or fuel petroleum, or its derivates sold in the country is taxed, which use is as well understood is very considerable. It is thus sought to induce the producers and refiners to reduce the price of these products for the benefit of the national industries.

"In order to protect the refining industry in the country there was established in general a lower tax for the refined distillates than on the crude distillates, as well as a higher tax on the crude oil for exportation than on the fuel oil.

"The basis for the collection of the taxes was also changed, placing it on the value of the petroleum in order to make it more equitable. Before this era there was no tax on this national product; afterwards it was levied but at a very insignificant rate, twenty cents per ton, which was raised to sixty cents per ton. Careful examination showed the government the necessity of taxing this product more equitably. The higher the grade of the oil, the higher the tax should be. The tax in this form was a rational one. The petroleum companies in the greater part have understood this and they have expressed their approval, because they see that the government is animated by a spirit of justice. Some companies have presented objections in respect to the rate of taxation assigned to a certain kind of derivates, claiming that instead of being a steady rate it should be based upon its market value in the United States. The Secretaryship of Finance has taken these objections into consideration, and the result of the study of the matter will be made known subsequently.

"In this matter, as well as in other similar ones, the interested parties have not in general expressed their conformity. It is the constant struggle between the interests of the country and private interests, in which each party tries to defend its interests.

"The producers of petroleum in Panuco were benefited by the new tax, because instead of paying 60 cents they will now only pay 50 cents per ton. Apart from this concession they are exempt also from paying taxes on the products which they may use in their industry, as well as not having to pay taxes on the products which they sell in the country.

"In enacting the law several reasons have been taken into consideration: The ten per cent tax on the value of the petroleum was determined by taking into account the cost of production, the imposts which had been imposed upon the petroleum industry and the prices for oil which prevailed in 1914 and 1915, and which were lower than at the present time.

"The densities of 0.91 and 0.97 were chosen as limitations for the variation of the value of 20 cents per hundred, because among these limitations it was found that the Tuxpam petroleums were found. For the petroleum of the isthmus, Tabasco and the San Pedro districts, which are the lightest of all, a variation of the value of 40 cents for each hundred and reduction of density was established. The variations of Tuxpam petroleum as well as the petroleum of the isthmus, Tabasco and San Pedro, are in accordance with the procedure which they received in practice. To the Panuco petroleum a steady price of $5 was given, in view of the fact that its variation is very significant. The value of the petroleum in order to fix the tax is determined from the sale price which the exported petroleum has in the ports of the Gulf of Mexico, and when this cannot be obtained, the sale price which it may have in the ports of the gulf in the United States is taken into consideration, discounting the freight.

"Refined distillates were taxed approximately at 2½ per cent on their value in

(*Concluded on page 7*)

Progress in the State of Sonora

Reforms and Improvements Accomplished and Projected by Governors De la Huerta and General Calles

Gen. Plutarco Elias Calles, Governor-Elect

PROVISIONAL GOV. ADOLFO DE LA HUERTA of the State of Sonora, who has been succeeded by the election of General Plutarco Elias Calles to the position, has made a report of the work done under his charge during his incumbency, which is summarized as follows:

There has been established a school of agriculture on the irrigated lands in the vicinity of the town of Seris. Three establishments for the manufacture of clothing have been installed in the City of Hermosillo on account of the Government, where the work is done by soldiers' widows, who are in receipt of salaries reaching as high as $4.00 a day.

Sonora Workingmen's Congress. Provisional Governor De la Huerta in Center

Telephonic communication has been established within the entire district of Altar, including the towns of Pitiquito, Caborca, Tubutama and Saric; the District of Magdalena and all of its towns, including Ures, Rayon, Matape, Suaqui and Sahuarita. Work is being continued on the line from Sahuarita to Arivechi, and from Yecora to the mines "La Republica," and to Sahuaripa.

There have been opened roads for automobiles from Pilares to Nacozari de Garcia; from Ures to Hermosillo, from Hermosillo to San Javier and also from Colorado and Tecoripa. Work is being pushed on the opening of the road from Sahuaripa to Tonichi and with a branch line to San Zavier. Lines of automobiles have been established on all the roads that have been opened in the District of Altar as follows: from Santa Ana to Caborca, Pitiquito, Tubutama, Saric; Altar and Sasabe; also between San Javier, Ures, and Hermosillo; also from Alamos to Huabatampo, all of which are maintained by the Government. Another road has been opened from Cananea to Arizpe. Another from Suaqui to Tecoripa; also from Opodepe to Poza station and from San Miguel de Horcasitas to Pesqueira station. There are also at present in construction roads from Matape to Baviacora, to Suaqui to San Antonio de la Huerta and to San Pedro de la Cueva.

There has been established a steam laundry in co-operative form which will become the property of the working women. There have also been established 10 co-operative agricultural stations by the Government, in which the workers are co-partners instead of being slaves.

The companies employing laborers have been obliged to make indemnity to those who are incapacitated from working through accidents sustained in their employment. There has been established a Laborers' Congress in the State which settles all questions of that character. It has been decreed that the minimum salary shall be $1.50 for 8 hours of work per day. The work has been continued on the embankment for the hygienization of the Port of Guaymas. On the part of the Ayuntamiento of Nogales, there has been installed a workingmen's colony composed of 35 houses, which are being acquired by the workingmen in small monthly payments. Work is also going on in the installation of an electric light plant in the town of Huatabampo by the Ayuntamiento of that place and there is also being carried into effect the necessary work for the introduction of potable water. In Santa Ana there is being established a gas plant for the lighting of the town.

There has been organized a national guard composed of 600 branches. Four newspapers aided by the Government have been established in order to instruct the people: La. Montana in Cananea, La Palabra in Nogales, La Razon in Guaymas and Orientacion in Hermosillo.

There has been established in Ures a small factory for clothing and another for cigarettes; also a wagon-making shop, a carpenter shop and a blacksmith shop in the penitentiary of the State, where the prisoners work under restrictions at a minimum daily salary of $1.50. There has also been established a school at the same penitentiary. The civil hospital has been reconstructed and equipped in a modern way, with a most excellent staff of surgeons and appliances, including the X-Ray apparatus. There has been established at the mouth of the Colorado River an agricultural colony. The ejidos of Agua Prieta, Naco, Oquitoa, Ures and San Pedro, in the District of Alamos, have been restored and lands have been given to all who ask for them. Work is being prosecuted for the protection of the Sonora River between the towns of Seris and Hermosillo. The poor children of Guaymas and Navajoa have been given clothes made in the Government established factories. There have been established in the State more than 300 new schools and others will be inaugurated. A comprehensive labor law has been decreed and is in operation in the State. There has also been begun the preliminary work for the installation of a nautical school in the Port of Guaymas.

Provisional Governor Adolfo De la Huerta

Program of Governor-Elect Calles

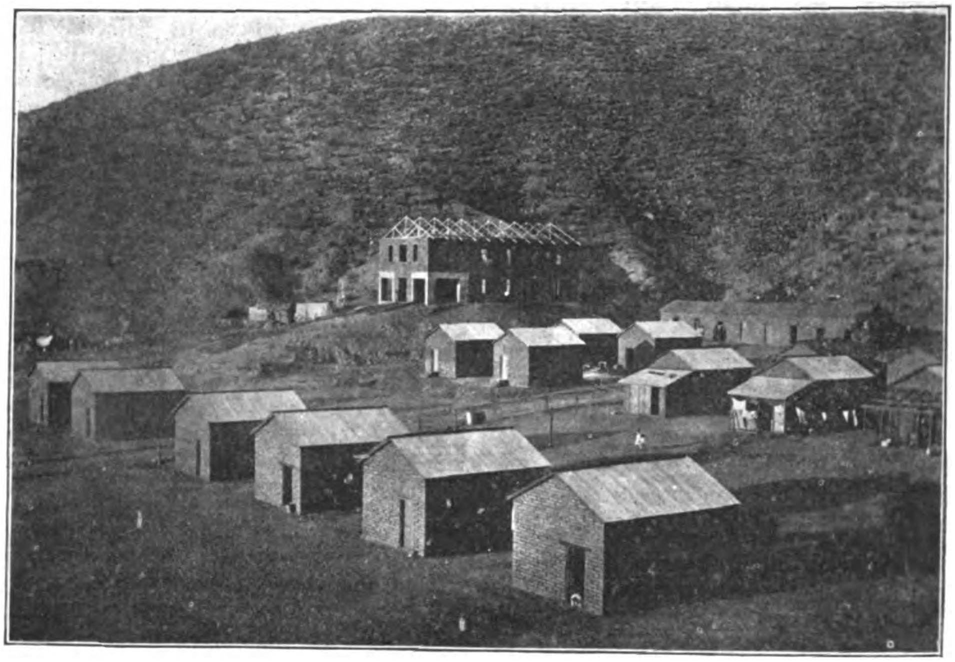
A constructive and progressive program for his administration has been adopted by General Plutarco Elias Calles, recently elected the constitutional chief magistrate of the great State of Sonora. He has outlined his aims in an interview published in *Argos*, an illustrated magazine issued at Hermosillo, capital of the State. It is a fact adding significance to the statements of Governor Calles, that he was chosen by an almost unanimous vote at an election which was notably free and honest, so that popular support is behind him and his proposals to an unusual degree.

In reply to his interviewer's question, General Calles said: "My governmental program? It is known to every one. I shall continue doing radical revolutionary work until the problems of the people arising from the Revolution are all solved. I shall preferably devote my energies and the resources of the State to the diffusion of primary education. In all the villages and groups of ranches where the school census registers a number of twenty children as a minimum, a school will be established. As this extensive development of educational facilities requires a number of competent teachers deeply interested in the progress and prosperity of the State, the Government will give special attention to the normal school, which will be extended by the addition of a department with a dormitory and boarding facilities for students from a distance. The Government will seek to have each district give a scholarship to one young woman and one young man, in order that they may take the normal course at the capital and provide the State with teachers who have affection for their own native region and zeal for the good results of education."

"When the State shall have solved the problem of illiteracy," explained Governor Calles, "it will be able to found other institutions and attend to secondary and professional instruction." He added that with the resources of the State and the support which he did not doubt the general government would give, he will try to solve the agrarian problem, since, he added, if the agrarian question is not solved the cause of the Revolution will remain submerged.

General Calles believes that if agriculture increases with the allotment of lands and the return of the ejidos (community lands), it will result in the return to their own country of many Mexican workmen who are engaged through labor contractors and are working for American companies in the southern portion of the United States under the worst of conditions.

As to the labor problem, the Governor will be vigilant for the strict carrying out of those mandates of the constitutional reforms which are related to the workingmen's interests and which were developed by the Workingmen's Congress, which will continue acting as an advisory body.



Workingmen's Colony at Nogales. New Schoolhouse Marked With a Cross (X).

Along with the foregoing, which will find their inspiration in the good of the people, will figure a strong anti-alcohol campaign and a proposal for legislation will be presented to the State Legislature, not only for the imposition of penalties upon consumers, dispensers and makers of intoxicating beverages, but upon authorities who shall tolerate or exploit this pernicious vice. These penalties will consist of imprisonment for from one to three years without commutation or fine. General Calles showed that already the good results of this anti-alcohol campaign could be seen in the single fact that the prisons are almost empty and families are found in an improved condition everywhere in consequence.

The Governor also said that the fiber which is obtained from maguey is abundant and of good quality in Sonora, and that it finds a ready market in the United States. He believed Sonora would be able to make a promising beginning with the new textile industry.

He expressed his firm belief that the Legislature would be in accord with this program, since the vote of the people had been for the revolutionary candidates for representatives and for those as radical as General Calles himself.

"All the foregoing," concludes the writer of the article in the *Argos*, "proves the spirit of rectitude, respect for law, and love of justice which will enlighten the work of the new Governor of Sonora."

The National School of Arts and Sciences in Merida, Yucatan, has added a department of photogravure to its other branches and will give instructions to all desiring it.

It has been decided to establish a number of pueblos or community land holdings, in order to encourage colonization in the Territory of Quintana Roo.

Taxing Petroleum Exports

(*Concluded from page 5*)

Mexico and the crude distillates with a double rate.

"Gas oil taxed at a five per cent provisionally until it may be possible to establish it at a more equitable value.

"In order to avoid waste as far as it may be possible, a double rate was established on the petroleum wasted by the exploiting companies.

"In short, the cost of production and of refining being comparatively low, the tax of ten per cent which has been levied is very moderate and does not injure in the least the petroleum industry."

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NOTE AND COMMENT

Answering the charges that Japan has 200,000 ex-soldiers in Mexico, the Japanese legation at Mexico City, after an investigation, reported recently that there are in Mexico some 2000 Japanese, of whom about 300 are women and children. Of 1700 male adults the majority, say about 800, are mining laborers; 400 are farmers and farm laborers; 200 are domestic servants, and the remaining 300 include storekeepers, physicians, carpenters, tailors, fishermen, and miscellaneous laborers. This bears out the assertion of THE REVIEW some time since that there were not 2500 Japanese all told in the Republic.

Under authorization of the President, the local authorities in all portions of the Republic have been instructed to make careful examination of all the arable lands in their respective jurisdictions. All proprietors will be required to designate what portion of their holdings they propose to cultivate, and all the remainder will be either cultivated under governmental management, or will be allotted temporarily and for agricultural purposes to those desiring them. It is the announced intention of the national authorities to put all the arable land in the Republic under cultivation. In many portions of the country several crops of one kind or another can be produced in a single year and by the proposed method it is expected a large surplus can be raised.

The coin receipts of the National Government are constantly increasing and there is every reason to believe that within a few months the income will equal the outgo, as there is a constant and increasing tendency in that direction. At present the income is greater than at any time in the history of the country. With the rapid pacification of the entire Republic, the heavy expenses for military purposes will be decreased and the saving thus created will be applied toward the outstanding indebtedness. Congress has not yet considered the question of effecting a loan, the action of that body being a prime essential before any steps can be taken toward a bond issue or other liability. The country being now, as it has for several months been, on a specie basis, and the financial situation undergoing constant amelioration, the supreme legislative power is devoting its attention to what it regards as matters of greater importance.

Reports of renewed activity in mining, oil and industrial circles continue to be received from all portions of the Republic. Most of the large mining properties are now in operation, some of them to a greater extent than ever before. Notable is the case of the Cananea (Sonora) Copper Company, whose annual report shows a net profit of nearly *seven million dollars* for the year 1916, an increase of nearly five hundred per cent over the previous year. This company paid a bullion tax to the Federal Government for one million dollars during the year, and also disposed of some of its undeveloped properties in order to concentrate on the remainder. From the oil region reports of activity are constant. The Metropolitan Petroleum Company, an American organization, has recently brought in a well in the Tampico district flowing 72,000 barrels daily, and other new wells are reported frequently.

Later. After the foregoing was written the Cananea Copper Company refused to pay the tax levied on its immense undeveloped holdings, on the ground that it was confiscatory, and summarily closed down its works. The figures given of net profits are from the company's own statement. Really, comment would be superfluous.

It is announced with positiveness by the press of Mexico City that Emiliano Zapata has opened negotiations for the surrender of his forces to the Government and the abandonment of opposition, which has long been without real cause. The proposition was first made to Governor Cesareo Castro of the State of Puebla, and by him referred to President Carranza, as he himself had no authority to act in the matter. A representative of Zapata has arrived in the capital city with authenticated credentials authorizing him to undertake the necessary negotiations. This is in accord with what was believed would be the result of the withdrawal some time ago of the Government forces from the State of Morelos, in order to avoid further unnecessary bloodshed. When the troops left that section, it was in the confident belief that it would only be a matter of time before Zapata would realize the fact that there was no further reason for his opposition and that he would of his own accord express his willingness to pledge allegiance. The foregoing news seems to bear out the belief of the authorities.

Several times within the past four years of revolutionary trouble it has been found necessary to suspend the exportation of food articles of prime necessity from Mexico, as well as of animals used for food and for breeding purposes, and recently a temporary renewal of this prohibition was put into effect. The explanation is so patent that it would seem difficult for any intelligent person to distort the motive for the restriction. While there are greater areas than ever before under cultivation in Mexico the harvest is not yet (the middle of June) completed or much more than commenced, and until such time as the local supply shall equal the consumption it is necessary to keep the stocks of grain, etc., now in the country at home for home consumption. The only exception is in the case of "garbanzos," or field peas, of which a large surplus is uniformly produced and exported. Mexico is seldom an exporter of grain, rice, beans, etc., to any great extent, but as a rule is an importer, mainly of wheat and flour and sometimes of corn. When the crops are harvested and a surplus shall be found to exist, there will be no trouble about exporting it. So with cattle, sheep, goats, etc. They are needed at home, not only for consumption but to build up the herds and flocks that have been decimated during the revolution.

Considering that widespread circulation has been given to the English translation of the new Mexican constitution, and that it has been published in parallel columns with the organic law adopted in 1857, it seems somewhat remarkable that there should be so much misunderstanding with regard to the matter. Thus, it has been charged over and over again that the new constitution confiscates church property. This was done by the constitution of 1857, and the present one simply confirms the law that has been in existence and in practice for nearly sixty years past. So too with the law which provides for the summary expulsion of pernicious foreigners. This has been in existence and has been frequently invoked for over half a century. The provision regarding the renunciation of any right to appeal with regard to any particular business enterprise undertaken by foreigners, concerning which much complaint is made, is merely an elaboration of the provision of the old constitution which declared that foreigners "shall subject themselves to the decisions and sentences of the tribunals, and *shall not be entitled to seek other redress than that which the laws concede to Mexicans.*" It has also been declared that wholesale confiscation of the property of foreigners is to be carried out under the new constitution, and this too finds belief in the face of the fact that both the old and the new constitutions state positively and distinctly that "No retroactive law shall be enacted" (old constitution) and that "No law shall be given retroactive effect to the prejudice of any person whatsoever." (New constitution.) There has been much criticism of the constitution by those who had manifestly not read the document, or who were not familiar with the old organic law. Such criticism is manifestly unfair and not entitled to credence.

An American Employer's Opinion

The manager of an extensive enterprise in Mexico, employing 1500 peones, and who has lived in that country for fifteen years, has written THE REVIEW a letter from which he permits the following extracts to be made:

"Some one has kindly forwarded me a file of your publication, for which I am very grateful. I realize that the first object of the magazine is educational, as you state, and only wish there were more such periodicals coming into the country and in circulation in the United States.

"I have read with a great deal of pleasure and interest the article published in your issue of October, 1916, written by Harold Walker, and wish to express my thorough appreciation of the same. I feel that if all Americans doing business in this country had the understanding of these people that Mr. Walker has, there would be an entirely different feeling held by all concerned.

"I have lived in this country for fifteen years and have held positions of authority in connection with my business, and have yet to hear the first disrespectful word from a Mexican subordinate. It has been my experience that people who have lived in this country five years or more are pretty well of the same opinion as that held by Mr. Walker, but for brutal intolerance and crass ignorance, I recommend you to the average American new-comer, or to the average American in the United States with whom one may have the misfortune to discuss openly Mexico and Mexicans."

The opinion expressed in the foregoing is held by very many Americans in Mexico—those who believe Mexicans are entitled to be treated as human beings and not as slaves.

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"Why do they not catch Villa?"

This is a question frequently asked by people whose "knowledge" of Mexico is derived for the greater part from newspaper reports.

There was once upon a time a very well known person named John S. Mosby. There were certain people who very much desired to make his personal acquaintance—an acquaintance which undoubtedly would have been attended by unpleasant results to the object thereof. So earnest were they in the quest that large bodies of troops were constantly sent hither and yon, through valley and over mountain and hill, in search of him. This quest was kept up for four long years or more, *but he never was caught.* The region wherein Villa secretes himself is a thousand per cent more difficult of access than that wherein Mosby held sway so long, while the forces that sought him were many fold any possible one that could be sent against the Mexican bandit.

Without Foundation

Regarding the published statement that "there is reason to believe that military and naval information of value has been transmitted to Germany from Mexico by wireless," it may be said with positiveness there is no foundation for such an aspersion upon the Mexican Government. There is no wireless apparatus in Mexico that could send a message such a distance even if it were desired to do so; furthermore, if messages were sent in this manner the American stations and the American war vessels would surely pick them up; and still further, all wireless stations in Mexico are under the control of the Government, and it is not to be believed that it would lend itself to such a flagrant violation of the neutrality to which it is pledged. The most powerful wireless station in Mexico has a radius of only 1000 kilometers (625 miles) during the day and double at night during winter time, when better atmospheric conditions prevail. As to the further suggestion that mail matter of a non-neutral character is sent to Germany by way of Mexico, it is enough to state that there is no means of sending such matter from Mexico to Germany, and official notice was given some time since by the postal authorities of Mexico that it was useless to deposit mail for the Central Powers in the postoffice, as it could not and would not be sent out of the country.

Have Asked Mexican Citizenship

A long list is published in the Mexican newspapers of persons who have applied for naturalization as Mexican citizens mainly for the purpose of exploiting concessions of one kind and another. In the number, which include Spaniards, Chinese, Japanese, Frenchmen, Italians, Englishmen, Americans, Irishmen, Central and South Americans, as also citizens of other countries, are the following: William Malone, J. C. Ullrich, Arthur V. Kitzl, John M. Watson, Maurice E. Brown, Joseph Bryan, Edward Conn, M. G. Gray, David E. Eiley, Waldo Souto, George Puflea, Louis Ernest, James R. Barbour, S. M. Kelly, Ed. Schoenwald, Edward Pastor, Henry W. Scott, Dr. K. F. Vincent, Ernest Harrigmann, C. W. Long, John Shelley, George G. Morrow, and others.

The wages of women operatives in the establishments in Hermosillo that are manufacturing uniforms for the troops have been increased to $3 per day. The output of these factories is large.

The Government has returned to its pre-revolutionary owners the valuable plant of the newspaper "El Imparcial," which has been used for the issuance of various periodicals in the meantime.

Misstatements Authoritatively Refuted

Concerning some recently published statements of an antagonistic and untruthful nature regarding conditions in Mexico, Acting Secretary of the Treasury Rafael Nieto authorizes the following in refutation thereof:

First.—The immigration of Mexican workingmen returning to their former homes from the United States has no cause originating in Mexico.

Second.—It is absolutely false that there is peace and tranquility only where there are German interests, as the Government gives protection everywhere to all classes wherever it is possible, and this comprises the greater portion of the Republic with a few isolated exceptions. It is false that the Government attacks American interests in favor of German interests. There is not a single case in which properties of Americans have been confiscated and sold to Germans. Not one instance can be cited.

Third.—It is false that the only bank that does business in Mexico is the German bank. All private banks in Mexico are doing business. The Mercantile Banking Company and the Mexico City Banking Company (American institutions), the Bank of Montreal, the Canadian Bank of Commerce and the Banking Company of Paris and Mexico (French) are all in operation. The Government of Mexico has not taken a single cent from the American and English banks. That which they have borrowed from Mexican banks has been approximately $30,000,000 (pesos) from Mexican banks which are enjoying concessions.

Fourth.—It is false that Villa has been lately in Chihuahua, and the statement that he has been indicates the prejudiced character of the source of information.

Fifth.—The statement that there is less shooting in Mexico at the present time because of the embargo on arms and ammunition, and that disorders will be resumed when there is a more liberal supply, is disproved by the fact that the severest fighting of the Revolution took place after the embargo was established, while the cessation of disorder is due to the rapid restoration of normal conditions, now going on in all portions of the Republic. The assertion quoted only demonstrates that those responsible for it are entirely hostile to the government of President Carranza.

Sixth.—There is no understanding whatever between the Washington Government and that of Mexico for the suppression of news of disorders in the latter country.

Seventh.—No proposition has been made to the Mexican Government looking to an alliance with Washington and involving a loan of two hundred million dollars to Mexico. The statement that the Mexican capital is in direct wireless communication with Berlin is absurd, since it is a physical impossibility under present conditions.

The further statement that a new group of Mexican millionaires might result from such action (the alleged alliance and proposed loan) is an insult to the personnel of the Government of Mexico.

During the month of May the custom houses at Vera Cruz and Tampico turned over to the national treasury over three million dollars in Mexican and American gold, as a portion of the collections at those ports.

Mexico, Russia and America

Contradictory Attitude of Some Americans—Ignorance of Present Facts Causes Misunderstanding

NO two other events of similar character in the contemporary world's history stand out so prominently as the Mexican and Russian Revolutions. Their significance, especially that of the overthrow of the House of Romanoff, has even overshadowed the great bloody international conflict of all nations. And yet, to the future students of history the two radically different receptions accorded to the very same events will be the cause of considerable discussion.

It is puzzling indeed to see the very same men who have so bitterly denounced the leaders of the Mexican social upheaval welcome with open arms men with similar ideas, with the same aspirations, who are fighting for the same causes and the same reasons, only in a different but far off country. It is an open secret that the people of the United States have been far from friendly towards our Mexican neighbors who were fighting for democracy against autocratic Diaz. It is a well known fact that favorable news has been suppressed or distorted, that their cause has been misrepresented, their earnest hopes and aspirations have been ridiculed here in the land of the greatest democracy in the world. And yet the very same people to do this were the first to extend arms of welcome to the Russians, whose aims, ambitions and aspirations are practically identical with those of the Mexicans. When one watches the utterances of certain leaders of American politics in their attitude towards our Southern neighbor, one can quite readily understand the causes of suspicion which exist in South and Central America against Uncle Sam.

Memorial Plaque of the God Macuilxochitl. (Note the Mongolian Features.)

One of those articles which will certainly not help further friendly feelings with our Southern neighbors was recently published in Collier's by ex-Senator Beveridge.

Aside from the distorted view of the author, his conservative notions and prehistoric visions, it is an article which demonstrates that he knows very little concerning the subject about which he is writing. And yet it is more or less matter of this kind that is shaping public opinion to an extent in this country and aided in bringing about and maintaining the tense situation which has existed for so long between us and our Southern neighbors.

While our President not so very long ago came out in a brilliant and powerful plea for the rights of smaller nations, carrying his doctrine so far as to cause us to come to the aid of struggling France and bleeding Belgium in an earnest fight for true democracy against the imperialistic tendency of the Central Powers, Senator Beveridge in his article in Collier's is advocating precisely the very same ideas for which Germany stands today. According to his notion, we should absorb Mexico. We should "civilize" her by the method of the bullet, and we should make friends with her by the aid of the gun and cannon; all that for her own good, according to Senator Beveridge! And to substantiate his theory, he goes on to prove that Mexico is a terrible danger to the United States; that any moment she is liable to swoop down upon us and endanger our commerce, industrial and national life, and he also broadly hints at her visionary alliance with Japan and Germany.

Were it not for the fact that the author once occupied a seat in the United States Senate, his contentions would be too ridiculous to receive a reply. Had he known Mexican history he would have known that at no time has Mexico allied herself with any other foreign nation whatever. History, if you will examine it, will prove that Mexico never waged any war, although she has gone through numerous revolutions; that her strife has been only internal and which has been of an evolutionary nature, but at no time has Mexico ever started out on a war of conquest, as Senator Beveridge would have us believe. But even aside from this, the fear which the author expresses is not at all complimentary to a country like the United States. Here we are, a nation of 100,000,000, well organized and equipped, and yet we are in fear of a disorganized and strife-torn group of people like the Mexicans, and less than one-sixth of the number. Surely they are not half so dangerous as Senator Beveridge would have us believe. It is to be feared that behind the Senator's article there is more or less of a political motive that he is trying to utilize against the Administration, to which he does not seem to be friendly, and he is doing this at the expense of the poor Mexicans.

Had, however, Senator Beveridge ever traveled to Mexico, or had he any first knowledge of Mexican events and affairs; had he even kept posted upon the happenings of the past two years; had he possessed a true insight of the recent events and developments of that struggling nation, he would never have written this article.

The Mexicans are not a "people" he claims. They are a gathering of races without homogeneousness or national cohesion. It is rather ill for an American to speak thus when one considers our own great melting pots of Chicago, and New York, and Philadelphia, and Boston, of the entire country in fact. What are we but a great conglomeration of different nationalities who have been partially welded together into one? This is being accomplished in the United States through education, through friendly understanding. The Mexicans have accomplished the same thing through evolutionary revolutions.

The contention that the Mexicans themselves will welcome American troops in Mexico does not bear out at all when we consider the failure of the Vera Cruz and of the Pershing expeditions and the tragedies of Parral and Carrizal, the experiences of 1847 and of the French invasion. The Mexicans at no time in history have

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Present-Day Conditions in Mexico

As Seen by an American Business Man of Wide Experience and Observation—Encouraging Outlook

THE REVIEW is permitted to make the following extracts from a letter written by a prominent American business man who has been spending several months in Mexico for the express purpose of studying conditions there. This letter was not written, it may be added, with any idea that it would appear in print, and is all the more interesting on that account. It says in part:

"There has been a very material change in the situation in the past few months. Formerly the Government had arrayed against it the organized opposition of Villa, Zapata, Salazar, etc., the unorganized opposition of thousands of bandits, and civil opposition of all classes—the rich, because the Revolution was primarily directed against that class; the middle class, which was suffering because of paper money troubles; and the laboring class, through lack of work and through decreased earning power because of paper money. The organized military movements are pretty well broken. Villa's rallying cry lost its force with the withdrawal of the United States troops, and his power has gone. The lack of ammunition, due to the embargo, has been an advantage in one way—the opposition has not been able to get any. Moreover, the resumption of farming on a large scale has taken the heart out of the bandit element. There seems to be plenty of work, and wages are good. Consequently it is preferable to work rather than run the risks involved in brigandage, and thousands have already gone back to farming. This appears to be the case all over the country.

"Between Esperanza and Mexico, a region which was nearly barren a year ago, there has been plowing and planting on a scale I have never seen equaled before, and there were hundreds and hundreds of people at work in the fields when I came through. I also saw many small herds of cattle grazing. Similar reports come in from the Toluca Valley, from the Laguna district and even from the South. An engineer who has just returned from Guerrero and Southern Michoacan says that the people down there are all sick of fighting and back at work on the farms, and that the Zapatistas are on the run. Zapata has had an emissary here trying to negotiate a basis for joining with the Government. Throughout the country various small bands are, by general report, surrendering. There are still many bandits, and life is not altogether normal. Now and then a train is destroyed and various sorts of depredations continue, but on the whole I think the tendency is for people to get back to work. Farm laborers are getting a peso a day, or more than double former wages; the lowest paid labor in the Pachuca mines gets $1.60 per day against 87½ centavos formerly; the increase is even greater, really, if one considers that a year ago farm labor got 2 pesos paper, worth only 4 cents United States.

Ancient Unnamed Goddess Unearthed at San Miguel Amantla

"In consequence of the above, the rich class, while still hostile, has come to take the Government as an accepted fact; the middle class of shopkeepers, clerks and professional men is getting paid on a gold basis, and is, if anything, better off than before, perhaps not actually but at least in hopes; and the laboring man, both in hours of work and pay, is better off than ever, and he is as much for the Government as he was against it a year ago. Briefly, then, organized military opposition is being rapidly broken up, brigandage is decreasing, and civil opposition is largely confined to the rich class.

"While the Carranza Government dominated through purely military power, and, in large measure, civil opposition amounted to nothing, nevertheless, during a period of economic disturbance and general suffering and discontent, it was far easier to crystallize the civil opposition into armed opposition than when life is more or less normal. The combined support of the military and civil population places the Government in an immensely stronger position. Taxes have been increased in all directions, and the property owning class is complaining. A tax of 10 centavos for incandescent lamps per month has just been imposed, and telephone subscribers will pay 12 pesos per year tax at business places and 6 pesos for residences.

"The monthly deficit, which was eight million pesos, is down to four million, and by the end of the year the Government should be breaking even. With the restoration of normal conditons the Government will derive income from districts which have been yielding nothing. The Government revenue to-day is higher than in the Diaz régime, and if it were not for the heavy expense of a large army, it would be on easy street. Return to normal conditions will permit a gradual reduction in army expense. While the Government needs money, I see nothing in the situation to cause alarm. In fact, the situation looks very good."

The letter then proceeds to quote a prominent Government official and revolutionary leader as follows:

"The general scheme of development in the past has been on artificial lines. While the building of railroads, the opening of mines, the development of power plants, opening of factories, etc., developed the natural resources of the country, this development was of little value to the nation as a matter of real progress. The wages paid provided for mere existence only, and after forty years of development, the mass of the people were in the same miserable state as before. While the Government received some income from these sources, and while employment was given to a certain number of people, the only ones who made any profit were those who owned the various classes of business, and they themselves, speaking in general, made less profit than would be possible under a broader scheme of national development. Consequently, immediate and future legislation must be calculated to produce different results.

"The tendency toward immense holdings of lands for agriculture, for oil or mining developments, etc., must be changed. It is not reasonable that a few big estates should own half the tillable land in the country, nor that half a dozen oil concerns should control two or three million acres of oil fields. The people who had made large investments were en-

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Mexico's International Position

Reasons Why a Policy of Strict Neutrality is the Logical and Proper One to Follow

THE foregoing question has been propounded in all possible forms by the majority of American newspapers and magazines.

Such a question, however, at least in its outward presentation, is far from being correctly asked.

There seems to be an insistence, in all quarters, upon the misleading premises that the Mexico of 1917, as the Mexico of 1909, is pinning all its present and future destinies on the autocratic will of one man.

I cannot understand why, but it invariably comes to happen that whenever an important question of the many in which the Mexican problem abounds is discussed by a large number of American writers, there is a tendency to leave entirely out of consideration, or even mere mention, the most weighty and the most vital facts connected with that particular question.

Examples of this incorrect form of discussing Mexican matters could be cited in numerous cases.

Journalists and writers have acquired, in their great majority, the lamentable habit of considering Mexico as a land inhabited by a peculiar kind of humans who are not expected to pass their lives trying, at any time, to rid themselves of economic, political and spiritual oppression, as have certainly done and will certainly do all the rest of humans.

Mexicans are supposed to be perpetual sheep in the never ceasing struggles of the world, and if they revolt against abuse and do the things that revolution must necessarily cause to be done whenever it is forced upon a people, then the phenomenon is explained as foreign to the average human psychology.

The facts of social and political import which everywhere and under given conditions affect and have always affected organized communities, are seldom put on the weighing scale in order to form accurate conclusions about Mexican affairs.

Whenever the question is asked, whether Carranza will side with the Allies or with the Germans, the same overlooking of facts is in evidence. Because Carranza is not representing to-day the autocratic will of one man, or the oligarchic will of a camarilla.

There is not a controlling camarilla of Mexican affairs today.

It does not matter what any one man, or any set of men, should decide to do with Mexican destinies as regards international questions. The great majorities of Mexicans would not follow them if their move did not represent a sincere, deep and unmistakable national sentiment.

On the other hand, it may be well to establish that national sentiment and national sympathies in Mexico at the present day, are neither pro-ally nor proteuton.

The issues of this war have no such direct bearing upon vital matters in any form touching upon our international policies, as to warrant agitation of sentiment.

We Mexicans regret more than we can express, the present international calamity, from the commercial and humanitarian standpoint, and cannot fail to realize the harm it has done to economic intercourse all over the world.

But it would be extremely ridiculous and unseemly that we came to plunge the military and natural resources which we so badly need for the ultimate establishment of constitutional powers, for the protection of our integrity and for the enormous tasks of national reconstruction, into a cesspool of European conflicts that have nothing whatever to do with our own problems and our own conflicts of adjustment.

Such an officiousness on the part of Mexico, however pleasing it might be to a given world-power, could not be worth the sacrifice (a terrible sacrifice indeed) either in sentimental glory or in material recompense.

Carranza is enough of a statesman to understand this, and enough of a Mexican to know that we owe to our sense of national dignity as well as to our sense of justice, the maintenance of the most honorable, sincere, upright and impeccable neutrality in the present European conflict.

Carranza knows that Mexico could derive no advantage of any kind to its welfare by making alliances with any one of the powers that are striving for dominion.

Carranza knows that all the men who as soldiers of the Revolution are back of him, are volunteers. All of them came from the pitiful ranks of underpaid, miserably treated, downtrodden labor, and from the ranks of stifled, downtrodden thought.

The capital idea in the Mexican movement has been, from the beginning, an idea of protest *by the majorities.* The system of economic spoliation that for long years weighed upon those majorities, succeeded in changing their humble attitude and their marvelous endurance into open rebellion.

Who is to blame for that?

Human ambition associated to human stupidity.

Those in power a decade before the Mexican Revolution broke out, had ample time to consider the catastrophe that would inevitably come upon the nation, should they insist on maintaining their rule of *taxation without representation.* Still, they had no eyes to see and no ears to hear the warnings that very often came to the surface from the bottom of wholesale suffering. They went on dreaming in a span of perpetual rule over a people that was supposed to be humble enough and unconscious enough to stand for everything, hoping nothing. Such was their mistake that gave birth to the Mexican Revolution, and the blame for the horrible losses in blood and treasure can hardly be put at the door of a people who have done nothing in more than four hundred years but to work honestly and faithfully.

The blame belongs somewhere else.

If many of the American journalists and commentators take these facts into careful consideration, they will not fail to understand why it is not correct to ask whether Carranza will side with the Allies or with the Kaiser.

The social and political phenomena that have taken place in Mexico are of a kind and have a significance that in no way or pretext can be intimately connected with the disputes of European powers, in so long as these do not interfere with Mexican internal affairs.

The Mexican people have nothing to resent against the Allies or against the Kaiser in their attitude of opposed belligerents.

Looking at the problem from this point of view, the proper way of asking the question, would be this:

Will the *Mexican people* side with the Allies or with the Kaiser?

The answer has already been given.

We Mexicans, who are in earnest for the implantation of a real and not a theoretical system of public administration of Mexican public interests, find no little disappointment in the contemptuous way in which most American writers and journalists are inclined to consider the entity of our people in all the paramount issues that affect its very existence.

Such writers and journalists never inquire after the manifestations of collective feeling in Mexico; for to do this would be a matter of patient work, that only those equipped with keen sociological ability could successfully undertake.

The Mexican people have many peculiar traits of character and turns of intelligence that are particularly difficult to understand and decidedly hard to properly estimate, without capable and sustained work of observation.

Let us not forget this. Many travelers and amateur litterateurs have failed to understand the mental, moral and social meaning of numerous Mexican features, because they were not equipped with the kind of intellectual ability that the case requires.

It is useless to continue quibbling about Mexican leaders in the present Constitutionalist organization.

It matters nothing, for the real interests of truth and justice whether Obregon, Pablo Gonzales or Carranza have personal sympathies for the Germans or for the Allies.

The influence that each of these men certainly possess in the army and on the great numbers of Mexicans affiliated to the revolutionist banner, because they are hungry for better chances in life, could not in any way affect the national sentiment on one or the other side.

The aforementioned Mexican leaders are perfectly aware of this fact, and are sensible and substantial enough in their lines of action not to pervert the merit of their individual

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Present-Day Mexico

An Old Resident Deals With Some Recent Unfounded Reports Regarding the Country

BY S. G. INMAN

I HAVE just spent four weeks among my old friends in Mexico. Entering at Piedras Negras, I had several days at that city, in Satillo and Monterrey, eight days in the capital and four in Vera Cruz. As soon as I had succeeded in getting away from all the fears incurred as a result of two years residence in the United States and the reading of our papers about the conditions in Mexico, I traveled about as usual. And here (at Havana) I get my first New York papers and find on the first page "Washington Rumor of Mexican Revolt—Concerned over Report Carranza has been Overthrown," and an editorial talks about the need of "watching Mexico," as Carranza is "sure to aid the Germans." It gives one a feeling of absolute hopelessness about the United States ever understanding the Mexican question if we are to depend on such false reports as these. One dispatch says that Washington has been out of communication with Mexico City for several days. On that very day the papers in Mexico City were reporting the details of the war discussions in Washington and its final declaration by the United States Congress, and were giving splendid press dispatches from the war zone in Europe, as well as publishing news of the attitude of the other Latin American countries toward Germany in view of the declaration of war by the United States!

As regards indications of sympathy with Germany, I was unable to find it then or at any other time. I understand that the German consul in Chihuahua is spending money freely in entertainment and has a wide circle of friends, but in Monterrey the German colony, which used to be quite influential, is very quiet. A reliable American prominent in the oil business in Tampico said to me that there were not over a dozen Germans in that city and probably not over fifty in the district. American papers are reporting two thousand reservists there, ready to seize the oil wells! In Mexico City I could find no one, not even those Americans who swallow every rumor afloat, that felt that there was anything in the reported German influence with the Mexican government. As for Japanese, there are only two hundred and fifty in Mexico City and about 2500 in the whole country.

As far as the "Overthrow of Carranza" is concerned, it is absolutely ridiculous. The newspapers in the United States are insistent that Obregon, the leader of the military party as they call him, is bound to break with Carranza because he has been the most successful General. So I took particular pains to find out the situation in this regard. I was not able to get the least evidence that Obregon has any idea of breaking with Carranza. In fact, if there is one thing that all those on the inside of the present administration seem to be sure of, it is that the Secretary of War of all men may be counted as loyal to the Constitutionalist cause. It may happen that he will resign his position. The General is a sick man, as he showed plainly when I talked with him in his office in the War Department. Then he is not a man of war. He loves the country, the trees, the birds. He longs to get back to his ranch in Sonora. There is no doubt but he will go just as soon as he can feel that it is right for him to leave. Naturally, as he is in the army, he sees things from that side. He has strong ideas concerning the nation's ability to return at once to civil government after five years of military rule, and does not always agree with the First Chief, who is bending every energy to have the constitutional order promptly restored. But he realizes too deeply that Carranza is the only hope for the country to consider turning against him.

Rev. S. G. Inman

The First Chief is to become the Constitutional President of Mexico on May 1st. The newly elected Congress is to assemble at that time and the courts are to be reestablished. Several amnesty proclamations are being studied now, and will be promulgated in a little while, giving guarantees to as many of the opponents of the Constitutional Cause as it is considered at all safe to do. Carranza is telling everyone who takes up matters that belong to the courts that they must be prepared to obey the decisions of the courts, as he is going to keep strictly separated the executive from the judicial. If he does this he will accomplish what has never seemed possible in Mexico up to this time.

But people are beginning to expect the impossible of this quiet, stern man, who, with a set jaw and a determined look, has for the last five years pursued an undeviating course of no compromise with the reactionaries, a complete victory for constitutional government. I had been anxious to see the General again and learn whether he had really changed, as some insisted, since the time when as Governor of the State of Coahuila and at the beginning of the present Revolution, I knew him at Saltillo and Piedras Negras. Then we talked over the problems of education and taxation by the hour, when nothing was further from his mind than becoming a soldier. His faith in the common Mexican seemed to me then to be ideal. I remember his telling me about what his old grandfather did when there was a dispute between him and another citizen about the mayoralty. To settle it, the people who were in favor of one side were asked to line up on one side of the plaza, and those opposed on the opposite side. The majority ruled. Our families visited back and forth and the Carranzas were as good neighbors as we ever had. Señora Carranza and the two young lady daughters were quiet, unpretentious people of what we would call the upper middle class. When the fighting got so bad that the General had to put himself at the head of his troops and it was no longer safe for the rest of his family to stay in Mexico, it was our sad privilege to take them in our carriage across the International bridge into Texas. In its center, where the monument marks the boundary between the two nations, the husband and father bade good-bye to his loved ones. After witnessing that scene, I could never believe any stories attacking his moral character.

So it has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life to find him here as the President-elect of the nation, the same simple, honest man with the same quiet purpose and the same dogged determination that I had known before. And his calmness! It makes no difference how excited those around him become, how much it looks like a crisis has been reached, he is as calm as the morning. Friends told me they had seen him when some strong General had come in to complain against some other man and that the General and his staff would rave and flourish their arms in the wildest kind of way, but the old man would never so much as move a muscle. This calmness, this steady unswerving purpose, so different from what the Mexican character generally is, seems to me to be the reason for his having been so thoroughly misunderstood. Many Americans as well as Mexicans and Spaniards who have lived always in Mexico City and have not understood the northern part of Mexico and its liberal tendencies which find their expression in a man like Carranza, have come to regard the First Chief, since his present residence in the Capital, as the one man who is strong enough to restore order to the country.

* * * * * *

It is a tribute to the faithful work of the native railway employees who, years ago, under the tutelage of American management, learned the spirit of loyal service and pride in keeping trains going on time and guarding the lives of the passengers. I talked with many of these men whom I knew in inferior positions years ago. Some of their positions seem rather incongruous, as that of a young man who used to work in the boiler department of the shops when he came to our night classes, and is now superintendent of the Pullman service from Laredo to Mexico City! It is hardly surprising that he did not order the Mexican porter to put on a clean jacket as often as some of the rest of us thought it should have been done.

Trains are just now beginning to run some at night. Preceding passenger trains are run pilot engines with soldiers aboard. I went through from Mexico City to Vera Cruz on the first train that had been run for months, leaving the Capital at 6 A. M. and arriving at 9 P. M., a distance of some 275 miles through mountainous territory where a small boy could have easily sent out train to the abysses hundreds of feet below. This run has generally been divided into two divisions, stopping at Cordoba over night.

And there is the ever-present Villa around Chihuahua. While I was not near his territory, I did talk with many people from that part of the country and the almost universal opinion is that he is no longer a force that can be counted as menacing the power of the government. It will be a long time no doubt before he and other chiefs can be captured or entirely put out of business, but they are not powerful enough to do more than nag and pillage in their own districts. The country in general is settling down to normal life. Farms are cultivated, mines and factories are being opened again, schools are flourishing, railroads are busy. A concession has just been granted to one company, allowing them one-third of the duty off, to bring in a thousand automobiles to be used as taxicabs in Mexico and other cities. The customs house at Laredo did ten millions of business in February.

Streets are being paved and parks beautified and new sanitary measures are being taken for the health of the people. In Saltillo, under the progressive administration of Governor Mireles, the city is being beautified in a remarkable way. He is putting education first in his program, was most cordial in praise of our mission schools and offered to give us a monthly subsidy for two of them. This is only an illustration of the cordiality I found everywhere in regard to the work of Protestant Missions. This is natural, when so many of the officials have been educated in our schools. I found men occupying prominent positions everywhere I went who had been our pupils or who, like Governor Mireles, had known our work and had reason to be thankful for what it had done.

It is in the hands of these young fellows that one finds the destinies of Mexico at the present time. They are often, very often, without experience, yet they are forward looking fellows. The young mayor of Piedras Negras came to our night classes in the People's Institute not over six years ago, when he could scarcely read. It is not surprising, therefore, to find that he has all kinds of schemes in hand for night classes, public baths, reading rooms, and similar facilities along the lines he saw worked out at the Institute. And he is not only willing but anxious, really hungering, to be led by those who can show him how to improve his people by these modern means.

Here is a thing that one notices immediately on getting to Mexico these days. The country is in the hands of a very different class of people from those who ruled it in the old days. The *intelectuales* are no longer in evidence. The common people are having their day. Will this last? *Quien sabe?* What will probably happen is that the best of these will become more efficient and more cultured and the best of the *intelectuales* will become more democratic, and in the years to come there will develop a combination of these elements that will make the best and most efficient public servants that Mexico has ever known. This will take time. I only hope that the people of the United States realize the necessity of this time element, giving the Carranza government strong backing in dealing with the tremendously difficult and multitudinous problems confronting it, and with sympathetic understanding will encourage our friends in their long period of reconstruction, which will be as trying for them no doubt as were our days following the Civil War. It will help wonderfully to challenge every sensational report about Mexico seen in the newspapers.—S. G. Inman, in Christian Work.

Mexico's International Position

(*Concluded from page* 12)

work toward a radical change of the order of things, with an officious meddling in Europe's conflicts.

Carranza's strength rests upon the cooperation of every one of the revolutionary chiefs, with the single exception of Villa, whose uncontrollable impulses and moral degradation have caused Mexico untold pain and distress.

Carranza's government has to adjust itself and will adjust itself to the will of the majorities of Mexicans.

It would be childish to believe that the sincere will of Mexican majorities was friendly to a continued rule of special privilege and monopoly of national resources. Such is not the case.

All of Mexico's problems require unceasing work, heroic patience and unimpeachable devotion for their solution. There is no time left in Mexican public life to be devoted to the Kaiser or to the Allies.

Some journalists have repeatedly asked, with indications of anxiety, why Carranza has not made some radical declarations in regard to his position in today's international crisis.

Carranza has not made the expected startling declarations, not because he is reluctant or afraid, but because he has no declarations to make whatsoever. The only one declaration he owed to the world, he made some time ago, as emphatically as possible, namely, that Mexico will maintain the strictest neutrality in this world-wide war.

In saying so, Carranza has voiced the truest and sincerest sentiment and desideratum of the Mexican people.

The German residents of Mexico have always behaved with honesty and decency. They have not meddled in our internal politics and they have always been a valuable asset to the progress and welfare of the country.

The French, Italians, Spaniards and other Latins have with us blood relations that place them prominently in our esteem and good fellowship.

As for the Americans, despite the fact that American capitalism has had something to do in part of our internal troubles, they are welcome in our new era of business and mutual understanding. A substantial work with this idea in view is already under way, as we honestly wish to have these two peoples know each other and acknowledge their mutual qualities: a thing so far unaccomplished, thanks to the rotten saturnalia of favors and concessions bestowed by Porfirio Diaz on a portion of American plutocrats. We believe in the high moral qualities of the American people and they will believe in ours as soon as they have a chance to know them.

To flatter any country because it is rich, influential or powerful, is repugnant to every honest Mexican. This policy of abject subserviency attracts only the cowardly and the cynical.

M. DEL CARPIO.

Mexico, Russia and America

(*Concluded from page* 10)

wanted or tolerated foreign intervention or invasion, as has been demonstrated by them in their attitude towards invaders of any nation.

Have the Mexicans accomplished anything?

If Senator Beveridge were to look into conditions in Mexico today and compare them to what they were five years ago, he would be ashamed of his utterances. Three years ago Mexico was practically starving; it seemed she was on the verge of bankruptcy. Carranza was beset by enemies on his right and left, and the end of the Constitutionalist movement seemed to all, except those who had faith in the ultimate triumph of the right because it was right, but a question of a day.

But what a change has been wrought—a veritable transformation.

At present, notwithstanding the many years of social strife, Mexico has 3000 more schools than it ever had under the most prosperous days of Diaz. The Government has just undertaken the construction of harbors at Progreso, Tampico, Mazatlan, Frontera and elsewhere. New railroads in various sections are in process of construction, and others are planned, while the old lines are being restored to a satisfactory condition. Of her own accord and without outside aid or even Governmental action, Mexico resumed specie payments several months ago, while her financial condition improves from day to day.

Even now writers who like Mr. Beveridge assume to speak with authority, yet who are either ignorant of readily ascertainable facts, or deliberately ignore them because they do not coincide with their prejudices or beliefs, enlarge upon the alleged bankruptcy of the country, upon the enormous amount of paper currency that was issued for revolutionary purposes, and draw woful pictures of conditions that do not exist. They ignore the fact that there is no longer any paper in circulation and has not been for months; they ignore the fact that the country is upon the soundest possible specie basis and is adding daily to its resources in that direction; they ignore, in truth, almost every fact that contradicts their own baseless assumptions and disproves their arguments.

The whole country is moving forward steadily in the work of restoration, improvement and progress.

The mines have been reopened, the oil fields developed, and as Mr. Beveridge might readily have learned from the public prints, the year recently ended was the most profitable that not a few of the leading foreign concerns ever experienced. The restitution of lands to their original and rightful peon owners and the allotment of tracts to the landless has been in full sway for over two years. There is more land under cultivation to-day in Mexico than ever before in her history. Industries of all kinds are thriving and the commerce of the country, as disclosed in readily accessible reports and statements published in the United States, is increasing and surpassing all previous records.

Even the most conservative of observers are obliged to admit that Mexico is on its way to a new industrial and commercial era, such as she has not experienced in history.

But, of course, Senator Beveridge is not to be blamed for his lack of knowledge of these facts. Very likely he never went further into Mexico than El Paso or some other border point, and if he got his "information" from there, which from the nature of his statements it would seem he did, he is to be pitied.

Had Senator Beveridge been at all a student of history, had he been a student of social and economic evolution, he would have realized that the revolution in Mexico was nothing more than an economic, industrial and commercial awakening of the people, and that the various counter-revolutions which followed are the natural result of the reconstructive era of a people that is just finding itself. The same thing is happening in Russia today. Counter-revolution will follow counter-revolution. If the Russians are let alone they will succeed. If not, strife will rage there for years. We have far from let Mexico alone. It has been their plea not to be molested, to let them handle their own affairs. They do not want the pretended kindly advice such as is given by Senator Beveridge. They seem to think they know their affairs better than he ever will know them, judging from his present demonstration of ignorance, not to say prejudice. And if we do let them alone, they will surely solve their problems as they have done up to now.

What Mexico wants at present is faith from her neighbors and patience with her efforts. Talk such as uttered by Senator Beveridge will only encourage her to seek solace among the very enemies whom we ar fighting today.

Present Day Conditions in Mexico

(*Concluded from page* 11)

titled to consideration, and it had not been intended, in general, to make the Constitution retroactive. Therefore, while the Government wished to reach a basis which would be satisfactory to existing interests and which would not create undue hardship, it could not lose sight of its ideals as to developments on broader lines. Moreover, existing concerns, regardless of concession rights, should recognize their moral obligations, should expect to bear their part of the national burden, and should, in general, realize that their operations should be subject to reasonable restrictions. A large part of the complaint by foreign concerns was due to the fact that they had heretofore been subject to no restriction whatever. They had been able to do in Mexico many things which they would not have attempted to do at home, because of the force of public opinion. They should realize that the new government wishes the broadest development possible, but that it is bound to look at the matter from the standpoint of the greatest common good. The Government has not the money, nor has the nation the money, for full development of resources, nor has it sufficient people for such a program. It therefore hopes to get foreign capital, and a great influx of foreign people, to make development possible, but it wants such capital and such people to come to Mexico in a truly national spirit and not with the idea of taking out of it all they can and leaving nothing permanent in return."

Commenting on the foregoing, the writer of the letter says:

"While I feel that in some respects there is danger that the Government will attempt to move too fast, I agree, in general, with the above views. The foreign investment in Mexico has been of small real benefit, and foreign capital has, as a rule, never done its share in questions of taxation, etc. The abuses have led to a reaction which is, of course, likely to be extreme. I think, however, that, if the whole question is handled in the proper spirit by both sides, a satisfactory working basis can be reached.

"The attitude of a good many of the leaders as to the United States is such that any loan from the United States directly would not be acceptable. While these leaders realize that the United States gave valuable aid in recognizing Carranza, they feel that the policy of the United States government has been consistently hostile ever since. The Vera Crus occupation, Bryan's support of Villa, the long stay on Mexican soil of the Pershing expedition, the embargo on arms, all rankle in their breasts. They feel that the United States entirely misunderstands the aims of this Government, and that the American administration blows hot and cold. Their feelings have improved of late, but they are still more or less hostile. At the present writing my impression is that no effort will be made now toward a loan. Perhaps it is just as well to postpone it. Once the Government has a surplus instead of a deficit it will be in much better shape to make terms."

Increased Liquor Tax

On May 1st new stamp taxes on alcoholic drinks went into effect in Mexico, in accordance with a decree dated April 14th. It is pointed out that increase in the revenue from stamp taxation is indispensable and that the present revenue from the first hand sale of intoxicating liquors produced within the country can undergo increase without injury to the business. All taxes are applied at the point of first sale. All spirituous liquors which are produced by distillation are subject to a tax of 40 per cent. upon the selling price. Fermented alcoholic drinks, such as beer, are taxed 16 per cent. on the first selling price. All imported intoxicants must pay 40 per cent. in addition to the import duty.

No Warrant for Anti-American Sentiment

In a recent issue of the "South American," Mr. John Barrett, of the Pan-American Union, had an interesting article under the caption, "Mexico—A Review and Forecast." The entire article is well worth perusing, and THE REVIEW regrets that it has only space sufficient for the following extract:

"Before the Revolution in 1911 an American could have traveled in the remotest parts of Mexico as safely as he could have done in any part of America. There were few, if any, evidences of hate or animosity among high or low Mexicans, or among Mexican employes towards American employers. In fact, Mexican employers regularly had far more trouble with their employes than did American employers.

"A certain class of Americans, however, were in some degree responsible for any anti-American feeling there may have been. *I refer to those Americans who, when in Mexico, pursued policies and did things that would not have been tolerated in the United States.* Of the same kind were Americans who sought and obtained concessions and then worked them entirely for their own benefit without regard to the local government and people. Naturally such instances were paraded and advertised by their Mexican competitors and enemies. In consequence, anti-American feeling was developed in spite of the fact that the great majority of Americans conducted their concessions legally and justly. Again, the words of anti-American newspapers and of men in the United States who patronize and look down on Mexico, are quoted and repeated in the Mexican papers as expressing popular feeling in the United States, thus arousing resentment in Mexico which finds expression in their local papers and in the loud voices of their agitators.

Unfortunately, moreover, in the old days of the former régime, when great land, mining, and railway concessions were secured by a certain class of Mexicans without regard to the rights of the masses of the people, there were often associated with them American companies and American individuals who had eventually to bear the blame and censure of Mexicans who wished to reform the methods of granting concessions and to safeguard the interests of the people. Mexicans may have been more responsible for the obtaining of these monopolies than were the Americans; but it was the interesting and sensational thing to emphasize the part American capital and men played in the transaction and to warn the Mexican people against such foreign absorption of their so-called native rights. It is only just to add that *high-class, responsible, authoritative Mexicans have repeatedly informed me that altogether the larger percentage of Americans in Mexico have so conducted themselves as to give no warrant for anti-American agitation and that thinking Mexicans desire the incoming of worthy Americans, the investment of their capital, and their participation in the reconstruction of Mexico.*"

Mexico Property Holders' Protective Association

A society with the above designation has recently been organized in the city of Los Angeles and in which it is desired to include all persons having property or interests in the Republic. While no set program has been adopted, it is intended to take no action that shall embarrass or prejudice any government or the officers thereof. Information regarding the laws, decrees, etc., will be secured and distributed in order that the members may be well informed regarding such matters, while occurrences of a general nature will also be described and accurate details given so far as possible.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

AUG 7 1917

Cost of the Revolution

Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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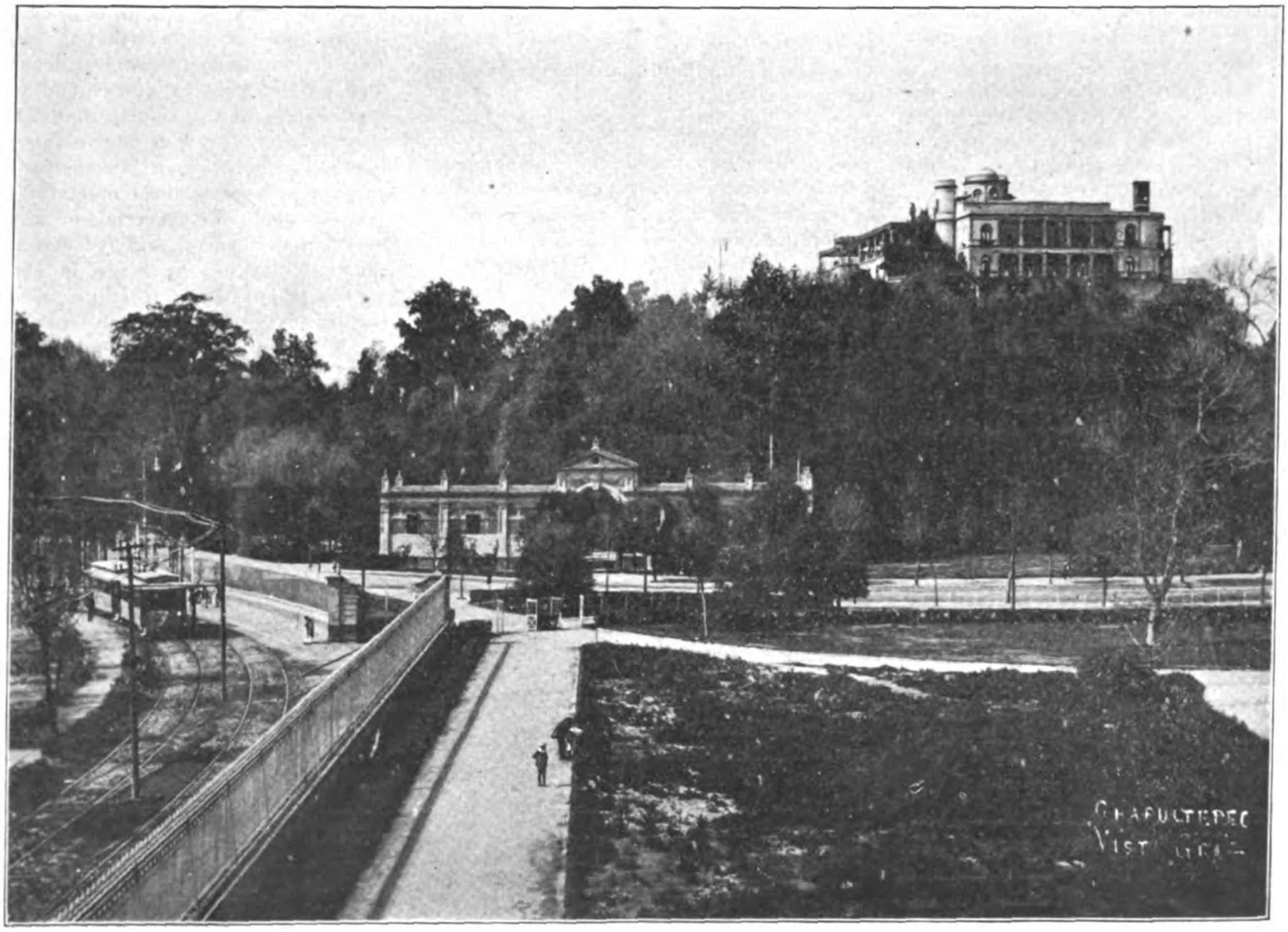


VIEW OF CHAPULTEPEC CASTLE

TEN CENTS THE COPY

The Cost of the Revolution

President Carranza's Statement of the Financial Situation During and Following the Period of Unrest

IN his address at the opening of Congress, President Carranza made a detailed statement of the finances of the Revolution, which is the first publication of the kind that has been made. It is as follows:

The first issue of paper money was authorized by the decree of April 26, 1913, and only for the sum of $5,000,000, for at the beginning of the Revolution there was no idea as to the financial needs of the campaign, nor could the duration of the war be determined beforehand, nor was there any experience as to the financial value to which paper currency could rise. By virtue of this authorization, $5,000,000 were printed, which were later known as the "Monclova Issue."

In December, 1913, that issue was ordered increased to the sum of $20,000,000, and, in February, 1914, there was need of still increasing it to $30,000,000.

The issues of paper money that were effected in order to reach this amount, and which amounted to a total of $25,000,000, are what is now known as the "Constitutionalist Army Issue."

The Constitutionalist Army, having occupied Mexico City, in August, 1914, there was felt the need of converting (or consolidating) the former issues, and, at the same time, to considerably increase its amount in order to meet the many necessities that arose upon the occupation of the southern part of the country. To this effect, and on the 19th of December, 1914, an interior debt was authorized for the sum of $130,000,000, with which to redeem the notes known as the "Monclova Issue" and the "Constitutionalist Army Issue" as well as to meet the expenditures that the Revolution might have to incur, for it was at this time when the struggle against "Villaism" had begun.

The printing of the bills for this issue was begun in Mexico City, where near $43,000,000 were printed, and which were later known as the "Issue of the Provisional Government of Mexico." The printing of the bills was continued in Vera Cruz, increasing the issue to $70,000,000, and until the authorized total of $200,000,000 was reached. It was later necessary to increase this issue to $250,000,000.

The bills printed and issued at Vera Cruz, by virtue of this authorization, were later known as "Vera Cruz Paper." The effective amount of paper money issued at Vera Cruz exceeded considerably the sum stated by the authorizations, by reason of the necessity of collecting the bills of the "Mexico Issue," the circulation of which was made difficult on account of counterfeits printed in Mexico City by the Convention Government, and which are now known as "Revalidated" (Revalidados).

The total of the issue effected by the Constitutionalist Government during the first and second periods of the Revolution, is as follows:

Monclova paper	$5,000,000
Constitutionalist Army Paper	25,000,000
Provisional Government of Mexico Paper	42,625,000
Provisional Government of Vera Cruz Paper	599,329.221
Total	$671,954.221

As can be seen, the amount of the Vera Cruz issue exceeded considerably the sums fixed by the authorizations. This was due to the urgent necessities of the military campaign, and cannot reflect upon the good name of the Constitutionalist Government, because the issues were strictly guarded, and in all cases the paper money printed passed through the treasury for circulation, and an exact account was kept of their disposition.

The paper money of the Constitutionalist Government was never sold for the purpose of commanding funds in the exterior (in foreign countries).

ISSUES EFFECTED BY MILITARY CHIEFS

The distance at and the independence with which the military chiefs worked at times, and especially at the beginning of the Revolution, made it impossible to supply them with funds from the treasurer of the First Chief (or Chief Executive). For this reason I found myself with the necessity of authorizing, at the start, several military chiefs to issue bills of local character, so that they might have funds for the campaign. The principal chiefs who were authorized to effect said issues were naturally those who had greater number of forces under their command, among whom were General Villa, General Obregon and General Gonzalez.

Still later on, during the second period of the military campaign, there was necessity of authorizing other military chiefs to command funds by issuing trust paper money while they could not be provided with currency from the First Chief. Such was the source (or origin) of other authorizations, as for example, those granted to Arrieta, Dieguez, Caballero, Murguia, Morales and Molina, etc., etc.

The majority of the military chiefs confined themselves within their instructions, but in other cases they exceeded their authority. For example, General Villa was authorized to issue ten million pesos for the needs of his campaign, in the State of Chihuahua, but nevertheless, and long before his defection, he had began to trespass the bounds of his issues by considerable sums, so that it can be said that the issues of paper money in the State of Chihuahua reach a total of several hundred million pesos, and are confused with the issues of false paper currency and with those of the enemies.

However, it can be said that the total of the amounts issued by the military chiefs, with the First Chief's authorization, did not exceed thirty million pesos.

These issues were recalled later on, and others withdrawn, so that at the present time there remains no more than two million pesos deposited with the Financial Commission, awaiting to be converted.

BUDGETS

Having in mind the hasty organization of a revolution there should be no reason to wonder why it was not possible to estimate the disbursements for the campaign of the Constitutionalist Army during the first and second periods of the campaign.

However, every time that it was possible to do so, efforts have been exerted to adjust the disbursements with certain budgets, especially those relating to salaries, for which, the budget for 1912-13, the last that can be considered as having legally existed, can be taken as a guide (or model) in the organization of offices and in the calculation of salaries of employees.

It is, however, natural that the organization carried out in the several departments does not compare or correspond with the organization of the Constitutional Government of 1912, and it is due to this that, in fact, it has been impossible to use for this purpose as a guide the budget for 1912-13.

When again the Government was established in the central seat (of Government) constant efforts were made, in Mexico as well as in Queretaro, to adjust to a budget the expenses of the several departments of the Constitutionalist Government. It was quite possible to approximately estimate the expenses for the employees of the several departments, but there is nothing strange in the fact that, though it has been possible to estimate the expenses for the several branches of the Government, it has nevertheless been absolutely impossible to make estimates as to the disbursements in the branch of war, there being a natural uncertainty as to the needs of the campaign.

EXPENDITURES OF THE REVOLUTION

At the beginning of the Revolution, the disbursements for the campaign were, most of the time, made by military chiefs, procuring, at the same time, the funds from wherever they could be found, and the contingencies of the struggle, and sometimes the ignorance or the natural disorder, made it impossible to keep an approximate account of what was being spent.

It was not till after the end of the first period of the Revolution, that is when the Constitutionalist Government took possession of Mexico City, that it became possible to begin the orderly accounting of the disbursements that were being made.

However, it can not be said that there exists any exact account of the disbursements, other than of the amounts that directly came out of the general treasury of the nation, or of offices dependent on it.

The main difficulty does not consist in knowing the amounts that were taken out of the treasury to be used for the divers needs of the Government, but in justifying the investments made by the paymasters and agents encharged with their disposition.

In the matter of war supplies, above all, it has been impossible to obtain the necessary details that would justify the investments made for their purpose. In many cases the funds furnished for the needs of the campaign were handed over in bulk to the military chiefs, or to the duly appointed paymasters who accompanied them, and in many cases there exists no other record of those disbursements than that the funds had been handed over to them.

The Bureau of Accounts and Notes, however, continues to carry on the accounting of all the expenses known, and it is possible that, before the beginning of the new fiscal year, an approximate estimate of the extent of the disbursements and receipts of the Revolution will be available.

The figures shown by the result of the result of the labors of the Bureau of Accounts and Notes cannot, however, be exact in respect to disbursements, for of course there has been a great number of disbursements of which there are no records.

Owing to the difficulties encountered in the accounting and assignation of details, which are not yet finished, the figures shown by the general treasury of the nation are necessarily incomplete. However, in order that an idea may be had as to the movements of the funds of the Revolution, of which accounts have been kept, I should state that the total of the revenues received and acknowledged by the general treasury of the nation amounts in gold to $75,000,000 and in paper to $236,000,000.

Mexican Embassy. Washington.

The disbursements of the Revolution, as far as they have been accounted for by the Bureau of Accounts and Notes, amount to a total of $96,000,000 in gold and $855,000,000 in paper.

The best comparison that can be made between the incomes and disbursements of the Revolution would have to be obtained through indirect means, by calculating the deficit for the Revolution, or by the public debt chargeable to the revolutionary period.

The disbursements, as shown by the books of the general treasury, relating to each one of the departments of the Government, are as follows:

	Nat'l Gold	*Paper*
First Chief's office (or Executive Dept.)	$230,365	$7,726,583
Constitutional Congress.	271,303	10,156
Foreign Ministry	1,268,577	3,088,188
Interior Ministry	$5,754,302	$43,220,765
Justice Ministry	192,826	2,927,916
Public Instruction Ministry.................	1,131,853	20,787,246
Public Works Ministry..	345,144	4,606,880
Communications Ministry	2,586,049	43,942,951
Finance Ministry	13,082,748	72,699,276
War Ministry	61,554,096	656,800,958

The foregoing disbursements make a total of $95,417,400 in national gold and $855,818,900 in paper.

DEFICIT

It is natural to suppose that there has always existed and now exists a considerable deficit between the receipts and disbursements of the Revolution.

For a long time that deficit could not be determined, nor much less avoided; but at the present time, when everything is paid for on a metallic base, a system begun since the early part of the present year, it can be said that during the first five months just past, the deficit on an average is not less than five million monthly, which at the end of the year will give a total of sixty million deficit.

This deficit of sixty million annually is not, however, as large as one would believe it to be if one bears in mind that the budget for 1912-13, calculated for comparatively normal times, already had reached the amount of 120 million pesos annually.

While our deficit was being covered with paper currency, it was therefore not felt so keenly; but when the metallic circulation was resumed, the Government was confronted with the situation of being compelled to live within the bounds of its revenues in metallic currency.

It was not possible to at once convert the paper money, paid for

(*Continued on p.* 11)

The Building of a New Mexico

Some of the Evils of a Period and a Domination That Have Been Removed for All Time

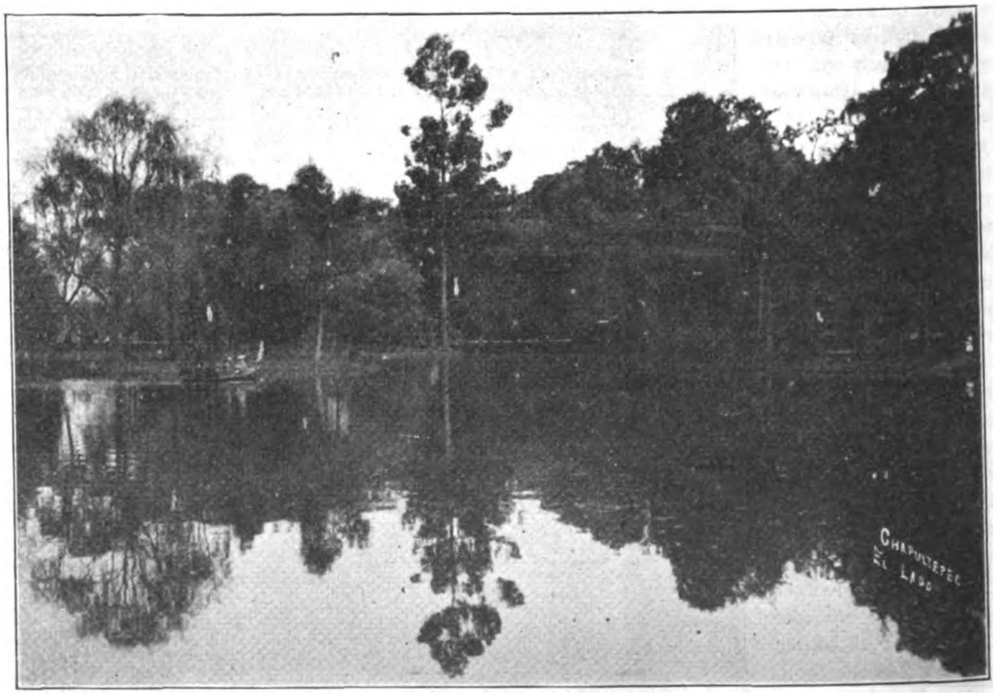
BY JUNIUS B. WOOD

A NEW Mexico is ready for the building to-day—is being built. A nation, its people, the humble peones, are going through a transition. Leaders and factions are mere superficial incidents of the moment. Those who now have the upper hand in the land liken the situation to the French revolution, when court and nobility were wiped out and a great republic given birth. At other times, when talking to Americans, they compare it to the situation confronting the South after the slaves were freed. Other Mexicans, those who want a return of the "cientifico" regime, not a part of the armed forces which speak for the country, say that with every stable interest or investment cut loose from its mooring, the first part of the comparison may be true, but that the outcome, instead of another great republic in the world galaxy, will be anarchy and more anarchy until Mexico returns entirely to barbarism.

Mexico in the western hemisphere, where kings and royalty first ceased to reign, is a fruitful field for a government by the people. If those who have supplied the country in revolutions for the past six years have done nothing else, they have at least sown the seeds of republicanism. Before that it was a republic only in name. Madero first, then Carranza—even Villa, Zapata, Orozco, Salazar and other bandits in their own ruthless way—have all builded their strength on the promise of giving the people a part in the government.

Avenue of Ancient Cypresses in Chapultepec Park, Where Montezuma Once Walked.

The era of dictators in Mexico is passed. Porfirio Diaz and the little clique of "cientificos," as his select circle of advisers was known, managed Mexico, say the revolutionists, as if it were their private estate. Victoriano Huerta belonged to the same politically elect. Even if he had been recognized by America and his seat made as secure and easy in the Palace of Chapultepec as it was in the Cafe Colon, it could not have long staved off the cataclysm. The spirit of the people was too strong against dictators, against the "cientificos," who, they say, gave a more willing ear to strangers—Americans, British, French, Belgians, Germans, even Spaniards—than to the Mexican himself.



Lake in Chapultepec Park.

Consequently the people believed dreams of a new government in which they would rule. To each one the ambition was different—from high office down to the ownership of a burro and a "finca" of a few acres—and all was promised freely. Revolution was popular with everybody who had nothing, which makes the great majority in Mexico. It was popular with those who had some of the world's goods and out of the turmoil hoped to get more. Many of the latter have been disappointed

Peonage was legally abolished in Mexico, but actual slavery existed just as effectively as if it were sanctioned by law. It was a slavery of debt. Debt was saddled on the poor peon before he was born, if his mother had the luxury of a physician. When he was christened another item was added. By the time he reached working age, which was early, he was under a handicap of debt from which few escaped in a lifetime. The big land owner held him as effectively as if he were one of the estate's branded cattle. If he tried to leave he was arrested and brought back. His pittance of wages offered no hope of ever paying up.

Sons inherited their father's debts. That was the only heritage which came to most of them. The boy helped his father either as "vaquero," herding cattle on the plains at 25 cents a day for both of them, or tilling some big estate's cultivated lands on shares. The family wage or share never was enough to pay last year's debt and when the father died the debt remained with the son.

Debts which meant slavery averaged between $20 and $50. Families ground out their entire lives on estates because they never could save the $20 to buy their man's freedom. The most stupid of human beings would be dissatisfied with such conditions. Occasionally an outsider with less money and more charity than the big hacienda owner would advance enough money to buy the peon free. Once away from the estate and able to get pay for his work, the debt would soon be paid off.

The heavy fist of the big landowner was felt by others than the helpless peon on the estate. He had power in Mexico City, influence in the different States where the land grants ran into millions of acres, and he controlled local officials of the little municipalities which fringed his properties and where more humble merchants and farmers tried to eke out a living.

Chihuahua, the largest State of the nation and where the big haciendas flourished, for taxing purposes valued irrigated land at 75 pesos a hectare of 2½ acres, arid cultivated land at 40 pesos, and grazing land at 30 centavos. The State tax was 1 per cent of the valuation. The federal tax was an additional 20 per cent of the State tax. The property of the big landowner, except for a few acres, was assessed as grazing land. His taxes might be comparatively large, but in proportion to his holdings they were vastly different from those of his less powerful neighbor. The irrigated acre was assessed at 250 times the value of the grazing acre.

In addition to the tax inequalities, the little landowner had other grievances. The land baron usually found it convenient to employ the village officials in some capacity. Unkind persons call it bribery. If his wild range cattle broke through the straggly fences of the little farmer's "fanega de tierra" and destroyed the corn or wheat, it might well be accepted as divine wrath, like a cloudburst or fire for which no person could be held responsible. At the risk of life and limb the farmer might drive the ferocious bull to the town corral. Almost invariably it would be turned loose by the village officials the next day. If in rage at the destruction of his crops he shot the unwelcome visitor the next time, dire punishment was ahead of him.

Once let one of his herd wander onto the big estate, he might get it back by paying a fine, unless as was usual the baron kept it for his own. These were not isolated cases. It was for years the first complaint of the modest householder, merchant, farmer or rancher, when asked by strangers to name the trouble with his country.

The big landowners had written into the statute books what is known as the law of "colondante." It was a powerful weapon in their hands. It compelled the small property owner to get the consent of his wealthy neighbor before he could sell his lands. Any sale of land had to be approved by the owner of the adjoining estate. The approval was hard to get. The big landowners' own policy was to acquire more land. If anybody wanted to sell, they would buy. As the little neighbor could not sell without their consent, only a few moves in elimination made the big landowner the only buyer and at his own price.

The law of "colondante" steered the nation to a future of big estates growing bigger and the driving out of the little landowner. Many stories are told of how impatient land barons would not wait for law's slow process of elimination. Their methods were not peculiar to any one country. At night a rancher's fence would be broken and the next morning 10,000 of the big landowner's cattle would be grazing on his land. The limited grazing for his herd of 200 or 300 head would be gone and his stock must be sold or it would starve. Again, his stock might stray in the night through a suspicious break in the fence. The big neighbor would insist on damages before the cattle would be returned, while calves and colts which the unfortunate rancher had thought were his the day before would bear the freshly burned brand of his wealthy neighbor. There were variations—flaming barns, flooded fields, trampled crops—so that the little rancher urged to sell by his big neighbor did well to comply.

In the state of Morelos and the south of the nation outright evictions were made by wholesale and by law. In 1896 a decree was passed that any person who could not show a written deed to the land he was occupying must relinquish it to the State. Lands had been handed down for generations in families and written deeds were unknown to the unlettered owners. Thousands were made homeless. The big landowners bought the newly acquired government lands for a song. The decree also took away the grazing privileges which the little stock owner had enjoyed as long as memory. The few who did not lose their homes lost the right to graze their stock.

Morelos is the stamping ground of Zapata and his fierce, big-hatted followers. Most of them were the little farmers and stock raisers legislated into poverty. Back of Zapatism was a grievance. It is all set out with many words in the Plan of Ayala, a paper-covered pamphlet which once could be purchased for 10 cents at almost any Mexican bookstore. That grievance in the hearts of his followers explains why Zapata, the only leader who refused to circulate paper money in the territory under his control, was so hard to conquer. His followers wanted their family lands back.

Soon after the whirl of revolution was causing "cientificos" and land barons to fly to other lands safer for them than Mexico, a peon passed through one of the Mormon colonies in Chihuahua driving a herd of 200 sheep northward. He wanted to sell part of them.

"Whose are they?" asked one of the Americans.

"Mine," replied the barefoot peon, who everybody knew never owned more than a white shirt and cotton trousers in his life.

"Where did you get them?" continued the questioner.

"Worked for them since I was born," said the peon.

"Whose were they?"

"Once they belonged to Tio Luis. Now they are mine," the man replied with the seriousness of speaking a new learned truth.

Everybody in Mexico knows that Tio Luis, or Uncle Luis, is Don Luis Terrazas. This affable Mexican of 87 years is said to own 14,000,000 acres. On his different estates, 800,000 cattle once roamed. He was known as the cattle king of the world. Energetic, of dominant personality, the "cientifico" system made it possible for him to acquire, just as it made it impossible for his peons to pull themselves out of the muck.

Once he became sufficiently stirred since the revolutions started and he became an exile in the United States, to deny that he had 14,000,000 acres. He did not give any other figures and it is said that there are so many thousand that they never have been counted. A single grant which he received from his friend, the late Porfirio Diaz, was a strip 12½ miles wide along both sides of the Santa Maria river, stretching 180 miles from San Geronimo to Laguna de Santa Maria. It is known as the Santa Maria ranch of 3,500 square miles or 2,250,000 acres. That was the way land grants were made.

The sheep were from the San Diego ranch. The man to whom they were offered a short time previous had bought the freedom of a peon from Don Luis by paying $25, which it was said he owed. The man worked out the loan in four months.

Hacienda de San Diego is vastly different today than it was a few years ago when it was managed for Don Luis by Manuel Guiterrez who was at the same time "jefe de armas" of the district of Galeana. Once every year, in October, Don Luis with some of his children and great grandchildren would visit it. With all his wealth the energetic old man never failed to make the annual inspections of his properties.

"How large is the ranch?" was asked a few days ago of the little schoolmaster, who has remained through all the turmoil.

"Quien sabe," he muttered with an expressive shrug. "To the mountains there, and there, and there," with a wave of the hand towards encircling peaks, faintly seen in a haze of distance.

Since the wheel of revolution started, thousands of head of stock have disappeared, killed for food or driven off. The miles of grazing plains, now green with succulent grasses and the bean laden mesquite, are deserted. The big hacienda house, with the initials of the former owner—"L. T."—in heroic size on a fading

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With the Mexican Peones

A Much Maligned and Misrepresented People, But With Many Admirable Traits of Character

"A LAZY, drunken, worthless lot of brutes!"

That is the manner in which many foreigners in Mexico, and many people in other countries as well, designate those upon whose ill-paid labors and unheeded sufferings they have fattened and lived in luxury, or of whom they know nothing at all. Not all, but many—too great a portion.

It is the manner in which not a few travelers and writers who have visited the country and have taken a superficial view of its people and customs, or have fallen under the influence of foreigners whose especial delight it would appear is to abuse the land and the people that have given them a home (often a refuge) and wealth, have been accustomed to malign the Mexican native—the peon. It is a kind of wholesale denunciation which has been so often repeated without challenge that it has become a popular belief which it is difficult to dispel.

But let us see about it!

It is perfectly true, the average laborer *is* slow, deliberate, rests as often as he can, and does not accomplish as much in a day as does the white or colored laborer in the North.

But why should he be different?

For centuries he has been a slave. For centuries he has not been his own master or the master of his own family. Day in and day out he has worked from daylight to dark, week after week, month after month, year after year. During his entire life he never saw as much money that he could call his own as the American laborer receives in a single week. Always in debt, he accepted the rough and scanty food doled out to him, went uncomplainingly about his work, lived and died almost as the dumb animals with which he carried on his tasks.

Small wonder that he gauged his efforts by his reward. Who would not? He would not have been human if he had not. Why *should* he hurry? Why *should* he take any interest in his toil or its results? Why *should* he seek to turn out as large an output as possible of whatever he was called upon to produce? Why *should* he not work slowly, rest frequently, and slight his work whenever possible? Would his severest critics act differently under like conditions and like heredity?

All this will be conceded by any candid man who knows Mexico and the Mexicans.

But! That they are by nature lazy, slothful, unambitious, any one who has had to deal with them and has given them an opportunity to be something else and demonstrate what there really is in them, will not concede. Any other race of men who have been treated as have been the aboriginal Mexicans would have developed into something very similar to them, or even worse. They are only human after all. But they are intensely human, and respond to humane treatment and kindness fully as well as any race on the earth—perhaps more than some. Those who have tried it know this to be true. That they are without ambition to better their condition is another widely spread error. Again, those who have tried them in this direction know better.

Just an instance regarding the "inherent laziness" of the peon of which one hears so much, but an instance which could be multiplied in thousands of cases if necessary, as can be attested by numerous employers. A force of peones employed in bridge construction—excavating, preparing and laying concrete, etc.—being dissatisfied with their regular daily wage, asked the field manager to give them "task work" instead of paying them by the day—the regular rate at that time being $1.50. The paymaster (who chanced to be the writer) was thereupon instructed to keep a record for a week of the amount of work accomplished daily in the way of excavation, breaking stone for concrete, mixing and pouring the same, loading rock on cars, etc., in order to determine the various quantities of each class of labor which might fairly be considered a day's work. This was done with care, and it was then decided by the employers that an addition of 25 per cent to the actual accomplishment of the men under the daily wage system ought to be considered a reasonably good day's work. Accordingly a list was prepared on this basis and posted up, declaring that so many buckets of gravel or earth, so many wheelbarrow loads of the same material, such a quantity of broken rock, so many batches of concrete, so many cars of stone would thereafter be regarded as a day's work, no matter how long it took the peones to accomplish the task. They would be credited with and would receive a full day's pay without regard to the time occupied.

This new system was inaugurated on a Monday, and with startling results. The men on excavation work completed their full number of buckets at *eleven o'clock* in the forenoon, having thus taken out 25 per cent more in five hours than they had ever removed previously in just twice that time, ten hours being the regular day's work. The men who broke stone for concrete had their task completed before 3 P. M., and the car loaders finished theirs at about the same time, sometimes earlier. All the men who were put on "tarea," as it is called, made a like record. Some of them, the majority in fact, after having gained a day's pay in five hours, asked permission to continue work and get in another half day, and this was gladly accorded them. From that moment the work in every department went ahead with a rush, and much more was accomplished than at any previous time and at considerably less outlay.

Intelligent employers of peon labor know so well their willingness to work industriously and to augment the output without increasing costs, when it is made to the personal interest of the laborer to do so, that they always endeavor to so arrange their operations as to make task work possible wherever it can be carried out.

It was decidedly interesting to watch the various gangs when their tasks were allotted. It was as though they had been electrified. The slow-moving, often sullen-faced men took on new vigor and life. Their faces cleared up. They laughed and joked with one another while working at top speed and encouraged each other to renewed effort. They kept their own tally of the work, as did also the "cabo" or boss, and strained every effort to increase the count and reduce the amount still to be accomplished. Each gang vied with the others in the same kind of work, and there was always an interesting scene when one party completed its task before the other. Good natured taunts and badinage were exchanged and the laggards were stimulated to renewed exertion. And always and everywhere this is the same. Foreigners have uniformly had the same experience with their laborers all over the Republic. No; give the peones an opportunity and they will work as willingly, as tirelessly and as capably as any other class of workers in any country, with no exception.

It is not true either that the peones are without ambition to advance themselves. It is an undeniable fact that many seem to be so, just as many members of the lower classes in other countries are apparently devoid of desire for advancement. But what could be expected of a race that has been kept in hopeless slavery so many generations, so many centuries? It would be remarkable indeed if any at all could be found who had the ambition to endeavor to advance themselves, yet no employer of peon labor can truthfully say that there is not a very considerable percentage of them who have ambition and who seize with avidity upon any opportunity for advancement. An interesting case within the writer's personal knowledge was that of a sandal-shod young peon who sought employment on construction work as a laborer. He was about twenty years of age and eagerly availed himself of an opportunity to perform the most laborious tasks, at first being paid only 75 cents per day. He showed himself so intelligent and ambitious, however, that he was advanced from one post to another with rapidity He disclosed his ambition to become a "fogonero," or fireman on a hoisting engine and was finally given such a position. In less than two years from the time he was first employed as a laborer at 75 cents per day he was running a hoisting engine as well as any foreigner and was drawing $6 a day wages. From a sandal-wearing peon he had developed into a neat, clean, well-dressed youth. He wore "made-to-order" clothes, white shirts and collars on Sundays and holidays, patent leather shoes on like occasions, cuff-buttons, a watch, a silk necktie, and in other respects was a faithful copy in attire of the Americans with whom he associated at work. In one respect he did *not* imitate the example set by too many of them—he did not drink!

And this was not an isolated case either. There were at all times abundance of peones, youths, who were anxious to be employed about the engines or pumps, derricks and other machinery and who developed a marked adaptability when given encouragement.

The most marked exemplification of this ambition has been seen since the National railway dispensed with foreign help in its mechanical department and employed none but natives. It had always been a grievance, and a justifiable one, on the part of the native railway men, that they were not given the desired and deserved opportunity for advancement to which they thought themselves entitled as co-owners of the lines with the Government, and that they were not paid the same wages for the same kind of work that foreigners received. They always regarded themselves as very unjustly discriminated against. As a consequence they were ardent supporters of the movement to nationalize the operating department of the lines and there was no lack of ambitious young men to take the, throttle or the train and operate them. The opportunity thus afforded has acted as a great stimulus, and there is no difficulty in securing competent men of native birth for every position in the service.

The older peones realize their own condition and are anxious that their children shall escape therefrom. They are as a rule desirous that their offspring shall attend school and the opportunity that is now being afforded them by the present Government is hailed with joy. They see the coming emancipation of their race from the tyranny of ignorance as well as from the tyranny of harsh taskmasters.

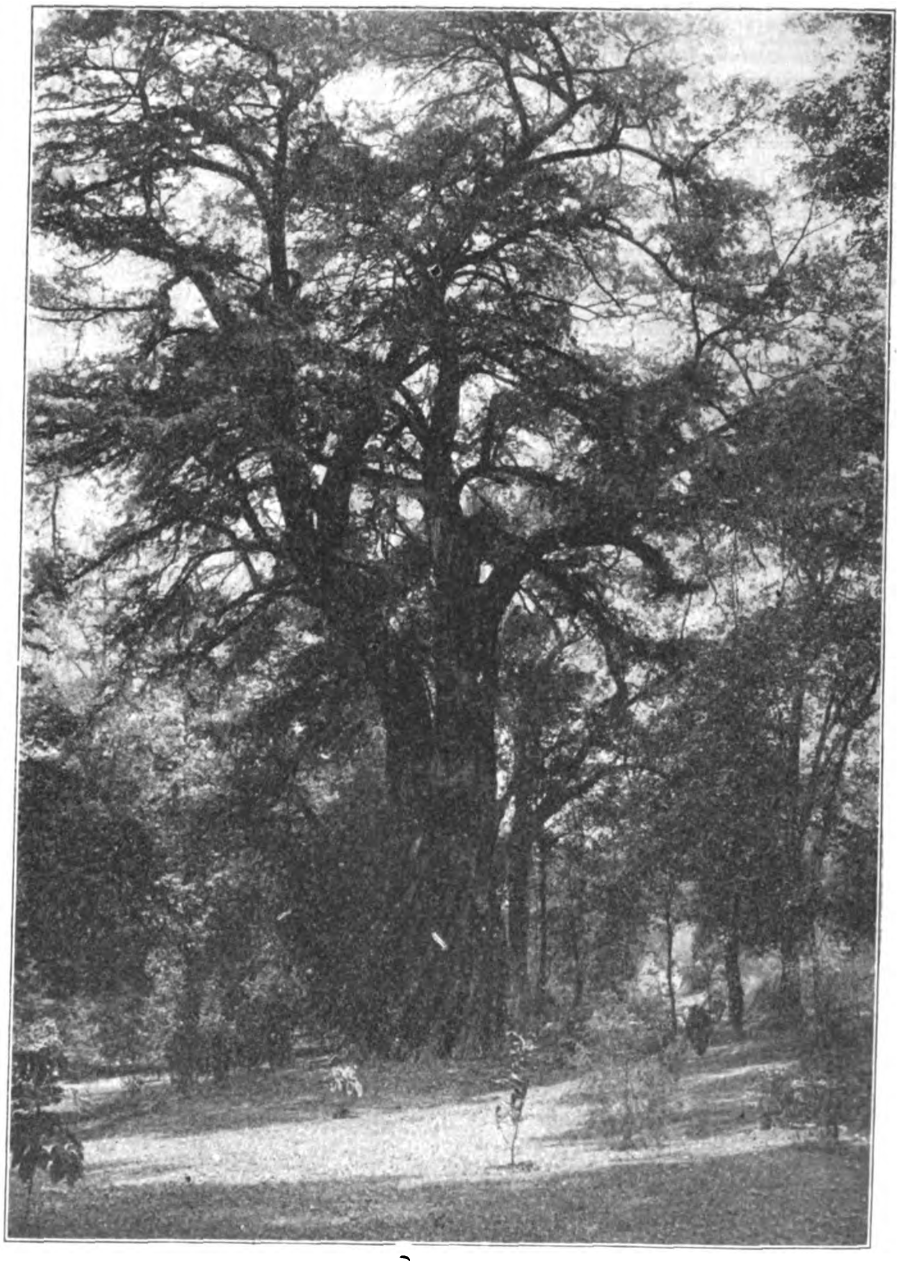
And not only are parents of families anxious for their children's advancement, but they not infrequently disclose a most pathetic desire to improve themselves. As an example, Yucatan may be cited. In that State the peones have been kept in abject slavery for centuries. One would with reason understand that they might well be stolid, hopeless, ambitionless. But not so. For the first time since the Spanish conquest these people have been given an opportunity and what does one see? By Government regulation, the hours of labor and the rate of compensation are so established that by three o'clock in the afternoon the piece worker, if he is so disposed, can and usually does have the amount of work performed which equals one day and a half's task, receiving therefor the wage of a day and a half—$3.75. Many of the men return to their homes, take a bath (the regular daily custom), don snow white cotton garments, and then— Well, what would one naturally suppose they would do with the idle hours of the remainder of the day? What would men of like class do in the United States or in any other country? Without inquiring too particularly into what they *would* do, it is safe to say there is at least one thing they would *not* do, and that is, go to school. And yet that is exactly what hundreds of these poor Yucatan peones do! And not infrequently their wives go with them. And if the laboring men and women do not find time during the day to attend school, facilities are afforded for attendance at night, and many of them gladly take advantage of such opportunities.

No ambition to improve themselves! Don't say that in the presence of those who know better from their own experience.

It is a grave mistake to suppose that the peon is hopeless. He is far from it. Give him a chance. He has never had it! For the first time in 400 years he is being given one.

That the peones are as a class habitual drunkards, steeped in alcohol, sodden with it, is another of the favorite assertions of superficial observers and writers, and it has as little real foundation as the ones just disposed of.

(*Concluded on page* 14)



Ancient Cypress at Chapultepec, Upward of 50 feet in Circumference.

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO · THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE · AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT · TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS · BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND · ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE · CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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UNFOUNDED STATEMENTS DISPROVED

So many unfounded statements have been made, some of them from high sources, to the effect that alien spies in the United States are sending unfriendly and contraband information to the Central Powers (as in the case of the recent "leak" regarding the transports conveying American troops to Europe) by the use of certain alleged but entirely fictitious high-powered wireless telegraph stations in Mexico, that it is again timely and necessary to call attention to the easily demonstrable fact that the highest powered wireless apparatus in that country has a radius of but 625 miles (double at night time), while in the most direct line it is over 4500 miles from that station to the nearest portion of the territory of the Central Powers. (The most powerful apparatus in the world, that at Fort Myer, Va., does not carry so far.) Furthermore, all the wireless apparatus in the Republic is under the sole control of the Government, which is maintaining absolute neutrality. No messages are allowed to be sent that are not strictly scrutinized. But in any event, it is a physical impossibility to transmit messages to any portion of Europe through any wireless station in Mexico. But even if this were not correct, and were wireless communication being carried on across the Atlantic, that fact could not be concealed from the American or foreign vessels on the Atlantic coast, nor from the wireless stations on the American mainland in the South, which would infallibly be aware if such messages were being sent.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURES ON MEXICO

Mr. M. del Carpio, who is a well-known Mexican sociologist, traveler and lecturer, is now in that country securing films and material for a new series of lectures dealing with present-day conditions. It is his intention to return to the United States at an early date and present the material thus gathered to the public. THE REVIEW will be glad to hear from any societies or organizations which desire to have the truth laid before its members and the public generally. His past lectures have been received with much approbation and he has been highly complimented for his clearness of expression and breadth of view.

AN APPEAL TO EXPATRIATES

Miguel Bolaños Cacho, himself at one time an opponent of the Revolution, has addressed an appeal to his fellow-countrymen in the United States advising them to support and encourage the Constitutionalist Government from reasons of the purest patriotism. In part he says:

"In view of the moral anarchy prevailing among the exiled and the difficulty of meeting to exchange ideas and agree upon a course of action, it behooves some one to take the initiative by crystallizing into a concrete form the manner of best attaining our hearts' desire as Mexicans, speaking unequivocally.

"To do this there is no time like the present, now that the Executive Power of Mexico has been duly vested in a President and Congress, dovetailing with the circumstances and customs of the country, so that no one, save he who blindly kicks against the pricks, can deny that there is at present in the Republic a duly constituted Government.

"We all know and most of us accept, that more than the centralized system of the old regime, not unlike previous ones, the former system really fell with the arrival of Mr. Francisco Madero to the Presidency, due to the fossilized immutability of the whole collection of Ministers, Governors, 'Jefe Politicos,' etc., permitting the group cynically called 'scientific,' headed by Limantour, a foreigner destitute of the notion of patriotism, to root itself in power. Life is renewal, evolution, and that former petrified government was morally and politically but a whited sepulchre.

"Now if it be desired to effect a new armed movement in Mexico against the new Government, only four courses remain:

"First—The initiative and simultaneous action of all clearly Mexican elements. This would not be feasible for two reasons: lack of money among possible leaders, and if capital could be scraped up among them, the will to so use it is lacking, as failures have shown. Moreover, the total want of cohesion among Mexicans in exile is notorious.

"Second—Starting a revolution of the same description backed by foreign capital. Now, there are no foreigners willing to risk their money in so doubtful a venture. However, assuming that such could be found, and that success should crown the enterprise, the procedure besides being despicable would be frightfully onerous for the nation, as the insatiable greed of the money lenders would produce an evil far worse than any present wrongs which they might originally have intended to remedy.

"Third—Armed intervention by another country. This is so ignominious as to compel dismissal. And finally,

"Fourth—The coup d'etat, or praetorian seizure, a most brutal proceeding, which, without profit to the exiled and disgruntled, would be headed by the same partisans of the present regime. Moreover, as the failure of February, 1913, proved, the times are not propitious for such methods of cementing governments and to give to the country what we all yearn for, peace and guarantees.

"Therefore, the fact remains that the Revolution has won, definitely triumphed. We must submit or withdraw. To hold aloof further, means self condemnation to perish in exile and ostracism, and not bringing to the country's renascence such capacities as we may have; renouncing our native soil.

"I believe that those who remain in foreign parts, vaguely fearing to return, and not because of criminal responsibilities, should return to Mexico. That those who are still fighting, should ask for amnesty and lay down their weapons, and finally that those within or without the country, who cannot participate or work with the new order of things, should at least abstain from systematically attacking the new regime, to put spokes in its wheels, but should permit it to develop its program, leaving to the nation and to history the exaction of responsibility for their stewardship.

"While not pretending to prophetic gifts, I limit myself to simply asserting, what we must all confess: that the Revolution has triumphed on the battlefields and in Mexican politics; that we must co-operate in the organization and consolidation of the new Government, or at least refrain from hampering its course and improvement."

Director General Cosmo Hinojosa recently left Mexico City for the United States in order to arrange the equalization of the parcel-post business between the two countries, the receipts of such packages in Mexico being far in excess of the shipments to the United States.

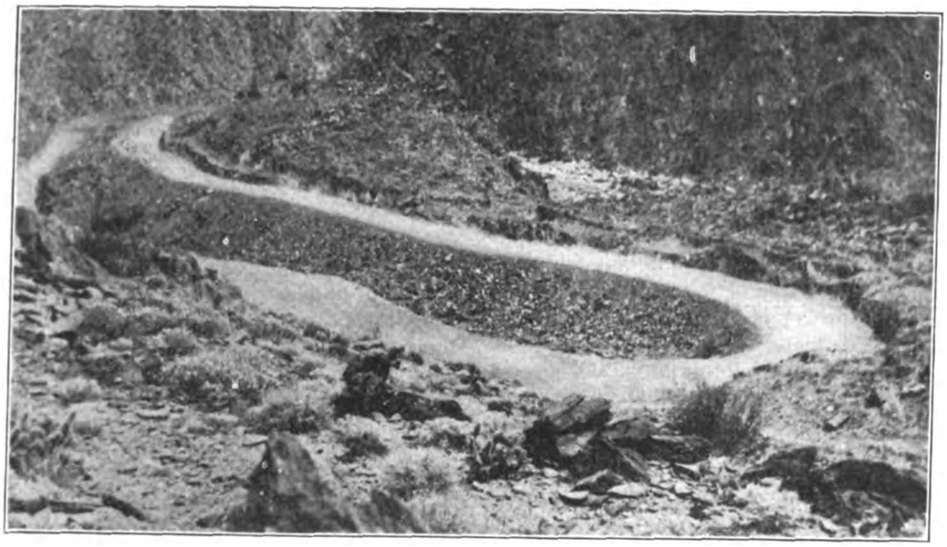
Secretary Pani, of the Department of Industry and Commerce, has recently granted permission to the Penn-Mex. Fuel Company to sink a well near Tuxpam, in the State of Vera Cruz; La Corona Petroleum Company has been given permission to bore for oil in the municipality of Panuco, State of Vera Cruz; the Tepetate Petroleum Company has been given similar permission in the municipality of Tantina, Vera Cruz; the East Coast Oil Company has been granted permission to construct a pipe line for carrying oil in the northern portion of the State of Vera Cruz; the Aguila Petroleum Company (the Pearson interests) has been given permission to instal refining machinery at Minatitlan, Vera Cruz, and the New England Fuel Company has been given similar permission at Pueblo Viejo, Vera Cruz. The Corona Company has recently brought in a well 837 meters deep which produces 28 cubic meters of oil daily.

Facts About Lower California

New Roads, Public Schools and Other Improvements Carried Out Under Supervision of Governor Esteban Cantu

BY MORRIS M. RATHBUN

WHAT in popular conception is the most blood drenched region on the North American continent in reality is as peaceful as the campus of a correspondence school at midnight. Instead of armed legions devastating fields, pillaging the populace and murdering helpless infants, the natives are straining the public treasury to construct new schools, build modern highways and develop their industries and lands.



Hair-Pin Curve on New National Highway, Lower California.

This anomalous place is the Territory of Baja California, Mexico, better known as Lower California, the peninsular possession of Mexico, under the immediate supervision of Governor Esteban Cantu, recently reappointed to office by President Carranza because of his good record as a constructive executive.

In the sensational yarns that have appeared in the press relative to conditions in Mexico, few readers have considered that Mexico has a boundary as long as the west half of the United States. The obstreperous Villa, when his exploits appeared in print, was given credit for sweeping all over Mexico in a few hours, just as though he might dash from Chicago to Los Angeles between luncheon and dinner.

Ambitious but ludicrously careless correspondents added to the gaiety by having Mexican armies ready to rush over the border anywhere along the 1400 miles from Brownsville, Texas, clear to San Diego, California. Most of them never having been within a thousand miles of Lower California and not knowing if there really were any Mexicans in the peninsula State, conveniently filled it with Japanese plotters and armed Germans. These stories of Lower California's warlike attitude were grinned at by some, taken seriously by many and discredited by all familiar with conditions. The real situation below the border of California is about as remote from the popular conception as it is possible to be. Those inclined to be alarmed over the safety of relatives in Southern California might ponder over the following facts:

Road Building Camp in the Sierra.

The population of the entire peninsular Mexican State is only about 24,000, something over a third of the population of San Diego. Cantu's army never has equaled in number the cavalry of Uncle Sam "somewhere in California" close to the Mexican line. Lately the Government has established a great concentration camp between Los Angeles and San Diego that will have more soldiers in it than the entire population of Lower California.

Instead of spending the public money in military preparation, Cantu is putting it into public improvements, the greatest of which is a scenic road across the north end of his State from Mexicali to Ensenada and known as the National Highway. It is 120 miles in length, taps a rich mineral district and opens up the interior of the Territory to three points in Southern California. This road will be completed by September at a cost of nearly $1,000,000, or approximately $40 for every man, woman and child in Lower California. The State of California in the United States of America is credited with being a goer in road construction, but it has spent only approximately $10 per capita in this sort of public improvement.

There has just been completed an agricultural high school at Mexicali at a cost of $50,000. Electric lights and a $30,000 water system are planned also for this city. Machine shops of steel and concrete, a general hospital and a modern wireless station are under construction at Mexicali and the future plans include street paving.

That other than dreams of invasion occupy the mind of Governor Cantu is attested by the plan for a railway to connect Mexicali with the upper end of Laguna Salada, an inland salt sea similar to the great Salt Lake of Utah, but which teems with sea food, and there establish a resort city. This lagoon extends to within four miles of the Colorado River mouth, emptying into the Gulf of California, and surveys have been made to dredge a ship canal to connect the lagoon with the gulf, thus enabling ocean going steamers to come to the heart of Lower California.

The public improvements planned and those already completed are only a part of the story of the conquests of peace. The

(*Continued on page 13*)

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

THE DEVOUT PRAYING CRIPPLE

"And the publican, standing far off . . . smote upon his breast, saying 'God be merciful to me a sinner.'"

My reserved seat in the park was, as stated, across the street from the church, though not directly in front of it. The main door of the religious edifice was usually open, affording a view of the dim interior and of the altar lights in the rear. It is the universal custom in places of this size and location, when passing a church, to lift one's hat, and wishing to conciliate the people and to show respect for their sentiments, I soon fell into this habit. Another peculiarity of churches in many places is that there are no pews and no seats except such as the worshippers provide for themselves. It is a frequent sight to see a party of ladies and children passing along the street toward the church, followed by a servant carrying an armful of folding chairs. So, too, with theaters in many towns. One is expected to bring his own chair, or be content to stand throughout the performance.

Soon after establishing myself as a more or less permanent resident in the plaza, I noted an old, old man, a crippled hunchback, who came regularly thither, and taking up his position on the outermost edge of the curbstone, exactly in front of the main door of the church, engaged for long periods in the most earnest devotions. His conduct reminded one irresistibly of that of the publican referred to in the quotation, and in one's mind one could readily see the Pharisees praying in public and thanking God that they were not as other men—though far be it from me to even hint that there were any of this class in Cuatro Cienegas!

Always he began by lifting his eyes reverently to the cross that crowned the church tower, then bowed his head, crossed himself, and as could be seen by the movement of his lips, repeated a prayer.

Then his glance came down to the doorway and the lights of the altar in the background, and again he bowed, crossed himself, and again offered a prayer, crossing his arms repeatedly over his breast as he did so. This was all by way of preliminary. After these acts of devotion, he yet again bowed his head, closed his eyes, and with crossed arms on breast, stood for half an hour and more at a time, motionless as a statue, barehead in the blazing hot sun, with moving lips and with an expression on his face of the deepest reverence. Occasionally he removed his arms from their position on his breast and made the sign of the cross, but for the most part the only movement that could be detected was that of his lips. He seemed lost in thought and entirely oblivious to the life that was going on about him. The playfully mischievous boys, ready enough to ridicule or torment anything out of the ordinary in the way of human kind, passed him by in silence and respected his devotions. These lasted generally for an hour or thereabouts, and when he turned to depart there was an expression of rapt spiritual elevation upon his countenance that was good to see. Surely there could be no doubt on the part of the observer that, whether one believe in the efficacy of prayer or not, this poor cripple, seemingly with nothing in life left worth living for, found deep satisfaction in this silent worship.

Singularly enough, in all the time that this devout man came under my observation, I never saw him enter the church. He was always content to stand afar off, lift up his eyes to the cross, and pray. Throngs might be passing in and out of the sacred edifice, but he never joined them. Whether it was as a penance that he denied himself this privilege, I was never able to learn. But those of a devout disposition frequently impose such punishments upon themselves, and appear to take deep delight in inflicting spiritual as well as bodily pain upon their own minds and bodies.

But that the poor cripple found an inexpressible satisfaction in thus worshipping could plainly enough be seen.

By the way, speaking of church going customs in Mexico, there is one very admirable practice that might well find imitation elsewhere. The Mexican women do *not* go to church to show their finery (far be it from me to insinuate that there are any women of any nationality who actually do that), for the simple reason that they have no opportunity to make any such display. Whether it is a church rule or only a custom, I do not know, but I do know that all women attending church wear plain black, and nothing else. There is nothing to distinguish the rich from the poor, except the quality of the fabric. In cut, color and fashion there is no difference. In Mexican churches "the rich and the poor meet together—the Lord is the maker of them all."

There is one day when this custom is not followed—on Easter Sunday, at the later services of the day. At the first service all attend in sober black. At the subsequent ones they wear all the seasonable colors and the sight is well worth seeing too.

Little Juan Jose Wong and His Sister "Lupe"

It is midday. "High noon by the old town clock." In this case, the church clock. School, which has been in session since eight o'clock in the morning, is "out." (How would American children like to be kept at their studies four long hours on a stretch? This in the forenoon and another long three hours in the afternoon?) Up the main street and across the plaza comes a stream of youth of both sexes, home-and-dinner bound—for dinner is a midday meal in Mexico. It is an interesting sight—as children always are. Mexican children are just like others too—strangely enough, considering the fact that many Americans and other foreigners seem inclined to doubt their possession of the same sort of feelings and the same sort of capabilities as their own.

These children play "tag," and "peg top," and "duck on the rock" (the most ancient child's game in the world), and "marbles," and "hide and seek," and other games dear to the childish heart in every country under the sun. They fly kites and enjoy all the sports known to childhood the world around. And they play bullfight, too! And right lively times they have of it! One boy is "it," and the others take off their coats and flaunt them in his face, just as if they were the red capes of the real bullfighters. And the boy who is "it" charges and bellows and paws the ground and throws dust in the air, like a sure-enough bull, and occasionally makes a swift dash at one of his supposed tormentors and rolls him in the dust, to the great merriment of the other participants and of the onlookers as well.

Most of the kiddies soon become acquainted with "El Gringo," and have a pleasant smile and greeting for him. Especial favorites, however, are little roly-poly black-eyed Juan Jose Wong and his dear little younger sister "Lupe," that being the two-syllabled diminutive for Guadalupe, a favorite name in this country for men as well as women, taken from the much revered patron saint of Mexico, the Virgin of Guadalupe. As may perhaps be imagined from the names, these children are the offspring of a Chinese father and a Mexican mother—and it is strange how women of the better peon class are so willing to take a Chinese husband. There are any number of such unions all over the country, and it is a marked peculiarity that the women are almost invariably the best looking of their class.

And the children! They are pretty, attractive in person and manner, bright and intelligent to a degree. Down at Monclova, the big railroad town forty miles away, is a school entirely devoted to the education of the children of such couples, and the teachers have assured me that no equal number of pupils in this country, or any

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COST OF THE REVOLUTION

(Concluded from page 3)

many taxes, into metallic currency, nor could those who paid them be compelled to make their payments in specie without causing numerous inconveniences and delays.

The Government, in spite of the wishes of its enemies, had necessarily to live, and being compelled by necessity, and in order that it may continue to exist, it had to appropriate funds from the metallic reserves of the banks

The amounts taken down to date from the banks reach a total of approximately twenty million pesos.

The Government has endeavoured to pursue a policy of strict economy, with intent to considerably reduce the number of its employees, and when the metallic circulation was reestablished it found itself compelled to pay its civil employees not more than only 50 per cent of their nominal salaries, holding back as a floating debt the balance due them.

However, in many instances, and especially in the military branch, it would have been impossible to obtain efficient services if only one-half of the salaries were paid. So that the troops and many of the employees, on account of the salaries due them, had to be paid 75 per cent or the whole thereof. In many other cases it has been necessary to grant at discretion gratifications or pecuniary aids to the employees, so that they might subsist.

All this relates to the expenditures required by the military campaign in the interior, where the Government has always had a deficit, and which, if summed up for the last four years, could be considered to constitute the public interior debt of the Revolution.

In respect to the increased expenses which the Revolution had to meet in the exterior, all have been scrupulously covered, and to that effect I have the satisfaction to announce that Mexico has regularly satisfied the requirements of its consular and diplomatic services, and has paid even the last of the bills for munitions and supplies of war, provisions and equipments which had to be bought outside of the country, and that consequently there is no debt in the exterior on account of the Revolution.

NON-COUNTERFEITABLE BILLS

The cited circumstances of counterfeiting and fraudulent issuing of paper money purported to be of the Provisional Government, by the Convention, known by the name of "Re-validated," and the natural disturbances in the financial situation caused by the existence of several kinds of paper currency, made it necessary to consider the conversion of all that debt into only one kind of paper, which, besides having the advantage of unity, would also be impossible to counterfeit.

The purpose of this issue was to substitute the old paper with one that could not be counterfeited; to limit the amount of paper in circulation to $500,000,000, and to give to this issue a fixed value, by means of a metallic guarantee, without issuing more than the amounts that could be guaranteed.

The printing of this non-counterfeitable paper was done in the United States by one of the best-known engraving houses, and amounted to $450,000,000. It was, however, necessary to print in Mexico, paper currency of denominations of $2, $1, 5 centavos, 10 centavos and 20 centavos, with all of which the issue reached a total of almost $450,000,000, which was not all placed in circulation. There are, at the present time, in the possession of the Government, some $140,000,000, which, if figured at the rate of 20 centavos to the peso, would represent a debt of 80,000,000 pesos.

It was for the management and guarantization of this paper currency that the Financial Commission was organized.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE OLD PAPER CURRENCY

The program which the Government proposed to follow in order to effect the withdrawal of the old paper and place the new in circulation consisted in accepting the paper of Vera Cruz and that of the Constitutionalist Army in payment of the greater part of the taxes, in the Federation and as well as in the States; in payment of railroad fares and transportation, postage, telegrams, and generally in payment of all obligations to the Government, that did not especially require metallic currency. On the other hand, the Government proposed to cover its disbursements, both federal and local, with non-counterfeitable paper currency, from the 1st of May, 1916, issuing the new paper every time there was enough metallic currency with which to guarantee it at the rate of 20 centavos gold for every peso.

When the non-counterfeitable paper currency was placed in circulation at that date, a lowering of the value of the Vera Cruz paper was naturally felt, which fact obliged the Government to hasten the withdrawal of the latter, in order to avoid the inconveniences caused by the existence of two paper currencies of different values.

To that effect, and beginning from the 5th of June, the paper currency of the Constitutionalist Army, with denominations of $20, $50, and $100, had been withdrawn from circulation, and by the 30th of June the bills of the denominations of $10, $5, $2 and $1, as well as the trust paper currency of smaller denominations.

It was directed that the Vera Cruz and Constitutionalist Army paper, whose holders would not or could not dispose of it in payment of taxes, be deposited with the offices of the Government and of the Financial Commission, so that in their turn they may be exchanged at the rate of ten centavos gold, or one peso in paper, with national gold certificates, payable in five annuities.

The Vera Cruz paper was withdrawn from circulation, as had been proposed, by accepting it for taxes and in payment of fares and transportation; but besides this it became necessary, during the times of its greatest depreciation, to buy great quantities of it, and lastly the Government became obliged to exchange, for the needy, the Vera Cruz paper that remained in their hands.

In this way were collected, approximately, $500,000,000 of Vera Cruz paper.

As to the deposits made of this paper, with the purpose of exchanging them for gold certificates, it amounted to only about 50,000,000 pesos, which is approximately what the Financial Commission has received to be exchanged for gold certificates. These 50,000,000 pesos, at the rate of ten centavos, national gold, means an indebtedness of about 5,000,000 pesos gold, as balance in favor of the Vera Cruz and Constitutionalist Army issues.

The several issues of paper money effected by military chiefs were withdrawn in the same manner, some by exchange, as was done in Sinaloa, Tepic and Jalisco, and others as deposits. Of these there are deposited with the Financial Commission only about $2,000,000 in paper currency.

METALLIC CIRCULATION

When the circulation of the non-counterfeitable paper currency was begun, the Government proposed to guarantee a rate of 20 centavos, national gold, to every peso. However, the Government did not have enough gold reserves nor enough revenues in metallic form with which to maintain the value of this paper by freely exchanging it at the guaranteed rate. The disbursements of the Government in metallic form became constantly more pressing, and the increase in the prices of materials, munitions, equipments and provisions for the troops, which the Government had to obtain with metallic currency, obliged it to dispose of its receipts in gold.

The Government did what was possible to maintain the value of the non-counterfeitable paper, but slowly and naturally it continued to depreciate.

In the days of interior struggle the scope of the circulation of paper currency was clearly defined, but even before the termination of the Revolution, the conditions in the rest of the world counseled the temporary continuation of the paper system, and the Government would have done so if it had been possible to obtain enough metallic funds with which to guarantee its circulation.

The banks were very effective means in bringing about the defeat of the paper currency, and many persons, even those who were supposed to be friends of the Revolution, not only did not help the Government, but also hastened the downfall of the paper.

The business men in the principal cities of the country raised the prices considerably in paper currency, and the laboring classes, after exerting their efforts to bring about a reduction in the prices of merchandise, were obliged to demand their wages in metallic currency, thus contributing to a still greater depreciation of the paper currency, and forcing to a certain extent the metallic circulation.

In November, 1916, the value of the non-counterfeitable paper became so low that it was impossible to use it any longer as currency, and the First Chief was obliged to dictate instructions for the resumption of the metallic circulation, which has been effected since the 1st of December of last year.

The financial problem, however, remains unsolved, because, without the existence of bank notes or any other form of credit as substitute for the metallic circulation, the latter had to be made almost wholly on the basis of a circulation of coins of gold, silver and copper.

When the metallic circulation was re-established, a new difficulty was met, and it was the high price of silver in the foreign market which has caused our peso to now reach a price far above its legal par value, and which consequently has been lately withdrawn from circulation.

The Government is carrying on the coinage of half pesos, the value of which as regulated by law is lower, and which have been kept in circulation down to date, even though it is feared that if the price of silver continues to rise, the elimination of these coins will again put the metallic circulation in danger.

A comparison between the paper and metallic circulations results in favor of the former regarding the necessities of the consuming class, because the prices of articles of first necessity, above all the national products, which apparently were priced higher in paper, were however priced considerably lower in metallic currency.

The Government is conscious of having done everything possible to maintain the circulation of the non-counterfeitable paper bills, but unfortunately there were a great number of causes, and many of them intentional, that contributed to make it depreciate and which obliged the Government to again return to the metallic system.

Recently a decree has been issued imposing an increase in the duties against foreign commerce, payable in non-counterfeitable paper, in order to resume the withdrawal of these bills in a form that would be less injurious to the Government and also to their holders.

ENEMY PAPER CURRENCY

Each of the enemies of the Revolution endeavoured to issue paper currency in the same form as that of the Constitutionalist Government, either for their own use or for the purpose of passing them as bills issued by the Constitutionalist Government itself. Villa effected two issues of paper currency, both in considerable amounts: those known as "two faces" and those known as "blankets."

When the Constitutionalist Government evacuated the City of Mexico in November, 1914, the so-called Convention Government found in the government printery typographical elements with which it continued the printing of the bills begun by the Constitutionalist Government in that city, and by only adding to them the impression of a stamp of "re-validation" made them appear as if they were the same bills issued by the First Chief. These were later known as "re-validated" bills.

The Constitutionalist Government was not informed in good time of this falsification of its bills, carried on by its very enemies, till after it reoccupied the City of Mexico in February, 1915, which was when it found that the matter concerned was that of a spurious issue, which fortunately was identified, but which however compelled the Constitutionalist Government to recall from circulation the bills issued by the "Convention Government of Mexico." In like circumstances the enemies of the Revolution effected issues of paper currency, such as those of Yucatan and Sonora.

The Constitutionalist Government, without hesitating, but always proceeding with justice and as a political and military measure, repudiated the bills issued by its enemies and prohibited their circulation in every place which we occupied. This caused many inconveniences to the needy classes, whom we tried to relieve by furnishing them with provisions, in the thickly populated communities; but, on the other hand, the procedure weakened our enemies to a great degree, whose currency depreciated rapidly.

And, lastly, in order to seriously hinder the circulation of our trust currency, came a great number of falsifications, intended to enrich those who issued them, as well as for political purposes.

DEBT OF THE REVOLUTION

Putting aside the amounts indebted by the nation, on account of obligations incurred prior to the revolutionary movement, it can be said that the amount of the indebtedness lately incurred by the nation would hardly reach a total of 125,000,000 pesos, national gold, which is the amount in which the country remains indebted after four years of strife. This is the total that has resulted from the investigations effected under the First Chief's directions.

Said debt is as follows:

On account of the non-counterfeitable paper in circulation, if all of which is ever redeemed at the rate of 20 centavos gold........	$80,000,000
On account of Vera Cruz paper...	5,000,000
Loans by banks..................	20,000,000
Miscellaneous debts pending, and indebtedness to employees, up to approximately the 30th of April.	20,000,000
Total......................	$125,000,000

It should be considered as a debt, which sooner or later will be charged against the Revolution, the amount of the indemnities on account of damages and injuries caused by the war. Among them should be considered the sums destined for the repairs to the lines of the National Railways, and also for indemnization on account of materials commandeered from the said railway, as provided for by the railway laws.

Though the First Chief acknowledged by decree of the 10th of May, 1913, the debts arising from the indemnities, and gave out the general bases for the formation of the commissions that were to pass upon the claims and liabilities, it has not, however, been possible nor convenient to proceed, down to date, in the organization of these commissions, for it was known beforehand that the Government was not in the position of being able to pay up these debts.

PUBLIC DEBT

From the beginning of the Revolution, the Constitutionalist Government resolved to repudiate any loan that Huerta may have negotiated in the exterior, and to this effect it made public its determination of not recognizing the legality of any loan that might have been made to him. Later on all the acts that emanated from the Huertista administration were also repudiated.

However, the Constitutionalist Government has never refused to recognize the legitimate obligations incurred before the Revolution, and consequently, it considers as extant the debts that were covered up by the Huerta administration with bonds or funds obtained through illegal loans.

In spite of its good will, the Revolutionary Government could not meet since 1913 the interest and amortization on the public debt; but instead of endeavoring to regularly meet the installments, which would have caused constant difficulties, it decided to indefinitely postpone its service on the public debt. The sum to which the public debt amounted in the beginning of 1913 was approximately 427,000,000 pesos, and the interests that have been due, and those that are now pending and dating from that year, will amount to approximately 70,000,000 pesos at the end of this semester.

BANKS

From the time of the government of General Diaz, the banking system in Mexico, based on concessions, implicated a system of privileges, the inconveniences of which had been felt for a long time.

The banks of Mexico, through which the Government issued funds, loaned to the Huerta government, so that it might fight the Constitutionalist Revolution, the approximate sum of $46,000,000. The Huerta government, on the other hand, compelled the forcible circulation of its bills, which fact the Constitutionalist Government found upon its advent.

The Constitutionalist Government, engaged in other matters pertaining to the campaign, could not, therefore, attend to the banking question, even though the bankers, in fact, were powerful financial enemies of the Revolution. On the other hand, the same banks found themselves in the situation of being unable to re-establish the voluntary circulation of their notes, because even if they still had their reserve funds intact, they would have been forced to liquidate if they had been compelled to redeem their notes at par.

The Government, however, not desiring the disappearance of the stores of metallic currency accumulated in the banks, took the necessary steps that would prevent the disposition of said funds. To this effect, instructions were issued to compel the institutions of credit to complete their reserves, and failing in this, the Government had the necessity to order the taking over of the banks under receiverships, a measure that was carried into effect without the necessity of taking possession of the banks, but by handing their administration into the hands of a Board of Receivers.

The banking problem remains unsolved because the Constitutional Congress having decreed that there should only be one bank of issue, the real condition of the banks has not yet been fully determined, as the carrying out of which object would hinder the organization of the only bank that shall take the place of the banking institutions now in existence.

The Constitutionalist Government, pressed by the circumstances, has been obliged to take from all the banks, for the needs of the Government, about 20,000,000 pesos. This constitutes a debt of the Government to the banking institutions, which it recognizes as a loan of short term, and for which it is disposed to furnish sufficient guaranties.

I wish to call the attention of Congress to the fact that the Constitutionalist Government did not appropriate funds from the reserves of the banks till after the paper currency had been completely put out of commission.

However, it should be noted that 20,000,000 pesos were loaned to the government of the usurpation from only the Banco Nacional and the Bank of London.

CONCLUSION

To finish the report regarding the financial transactions of the Revolution, I can say, as a resumé, that the Revolution was carried on with elements that were absolutely national; that, notwithstanding the considerable reduction in the revenues, we have been able to fight the Huerta regime and to triumph over it; to defeat at once the unfaithfulness of Villa, and also to triumph over it, and to begin the reorganization of the Government, without making the cost of the revolutionary movement, down to date, any higher than 125,000,000 pesos, which can be considered as the Public Debt chargeable to the Revolution, which Mexico has successfully borne without the necessity of borrowing one single centavo from the exterior.

President Carranza has asked Congress for authority to negotiate loans amounting to $300,000,000 Mexican gold, or the equivalent of nearly $150,000,000 American gold, for the following purposes: $150,000,000 to meet the deficits of interest, etc., now owing by the Government; $100,000,000 to be used as a metallic reserve for the paper currency proposed to be issued by the bank which it is expected Congress will authorize to be established with the sole power to emit such currency, and $50,000,000 for the purpose of rehabilitating the National Railways, replacing tracks, bridges and buildings and supplying rolling stock, sufficient to place the lines in the same condition as before the Revolution. It is believed that President Carranza has confidence that the bond issue necessary for the purpose of these loans will be placed with little difficulty after the authorization is granted by Congress—that being the legal method of procedure in such cases.

LATER.—Congress subsequently authorized the $100,000,000 bank loan, and is now considering the others.

FACTS ABOUT LOWER CALIFORNIA

(Concluded from page 9)

eastern section of the State is part of the Imperial Valley, the wonderfully rich silt lands created by the overflowing Colorado in ages gone. Into the Mexican side of this valley annually is brought a million dollars' worth of farm machinery from the United States. Cotton, cattle, hides, copper and similar commodities are sent into the United States in exchange. The little customs house between Mexicali and Calexico handles a vast annual business.

Governor Esteban Cantu of Lower California

The "bloodthirsty army of bandits" maintained by Cantu do not bear out the enthusiastic correspondents' description. They received $1.50 gold a day, making them the highest paid soldiers in the world. In addition they are given an education. School is held for four hours each day in the barracks. Cantu also has a system of agricultural development whereby his soldiers are given grants of 20 acres each for their own cultivation. Besides the agriculture, sheep and cattle raising and mining industries that have been established for years, there are vast kelp beds and fisheries providing gradually increasing revenue.

These are some of the activities that are overlooked by too zealous military correspondents. There are others who have noted nothing but the horse racing and gambling that are operated openly at Tia Juana and Mexicali. Cantu is charged with demanding a tremendous "rake-off" from these institutions and doubtless gets it, but this revenue is part that is going into public improvements as fast as collected. Gambling is a national institution in Mexico and is not under ban of the moral code. There would be gambling if there were gambling houses or not, hence there is some philosophy in centralizing it and making it pay the State. There are 3000 Chinese below the border in Cantu's Territory and these are more addicted to games of chance than are the Mexicans.

A great deal of American capital has gone into Lower California and more is going in constantly. The Governor apparently likes Americans and their ways, for he is eager to have them develop the latent resources of his domain. Incidentally, Cantu is a highly educated man who has traveled abroad and studied hard. He is still under forty and is the son of a Spanish father and Mexican mother. He was born in Mexico City. He has been smart enough to surround himself with leading engineers, inventors, financiers and statesmen of his own country, and is utilizing their cleverness in developing the State. While eastern Mexico was having its revolts and factions were trying to settle their differences with the sword, Cantu took advantage of his isolated position and natural defenses and maintained a strictly neutral position. Meanwhile he kept his people at work and is still doing so. He is turning burro trails into auto highways and his people are so busy taking advantage of the high prices for soil products that they do not take kindly to suggestions of fighting the Americanos or anyone else. One may travel across the entire Territory without coming into contact with an armed Mexican soldier, a German or a Japanese. The people met do not understood questions of invasion or battles. When these subjects are mentioned by Americans, they stare in surprise and their glances indicate that they take the questioner for some sort of an uninformed idiot—something on the order of the correspondents who have maligned them and their country.

The free importation of various articles of prime necessity, which had been ordered in February last to be limited to the last of the month of June, has been extended until the 31st of December. The articles are as follows: Potatoes, lard, barley, garbanzos, lentels, beans, chick peas, other alimentary grains not specified, common sugar, flour of all kinds, from barley, rye, corn, wheat, oats, etc., for culinary use, and sago.

The special commission appointed some time ago by the Department of Agriculture for the purpose of combatting the ravages of the "pink boll weevil," a destructive enemy of the cotton plant, and which has been operating in the Laguna district, reports encouraging success in the effort and expresses the belief that before long the pest will be entirely eradicated. The cotton growers are co-operating actively with the Government in this matter.

During the first week in July there began in Vera Cruz a series of football and baseball matches for the championship of that State. Three football clubs and seven baseball clubs participated. The latter were named respectively the Pirates, the Eagles, the New Stars, the Tigers, the Pole Stars, the Texas and the Custom-House. The former were the Allies, the Sporting Club and the Spanish. Great popular interest was manifested in the outcome of the tournament.

WITH THE MEXICAN PEONES

(Concluded from page 7)

There is just one fundamental reason why this charge is not and cannot be true upon any such wholesale basis as it is made, and and that reason is an absolute answer and disproof. Liquor of any kind in Mexico costs money, coin, or paper, just as it does anywhere in the world. The average peon, as has been stated and as is well known, seldom has any money, or at the best but little, and he therefore cannot obtain the liquor with which to drink to excess, merely because he has not the wherewithal to purchase it and never did have. A peon who considers himself fortunate to receive two to four reales in a week (often he will not have so much in a month), surely is in no financial position to obtain much liquor even if he were so disposed.

It is true, in the pulque region one sees the peones indulging to excess in that beverage, but the heaviest consumers are miners and other workers who are in the receipt of comparatively good wages (that is, compared with the field workers who constitute the bulk of the peon class), and are therefore able to over-indulge in their appetite for liquor, granted their possession of such appetite. But outside of the pulque belt, which does not, as many suppose, cover the whole of Mexico, but only a small fraction of the Republic, being confined to a few States in the center, the peones are as a rule temperate and abstemious. They may take a drink on occasion, as do members of the working classes in other countries, but there is no more drunkenness in the rural communities than anywhere else in the world. In the cities one can see drunkenness if he look for it, but it is not obnoxiously apparent. So it is in cities of other portions of the world! The writer has seen more open drunkenness in a day in a certain American city not so distant from the boundary of despised Mexico than he ever saw in places of the same or even greater size in that country in a week. In Mexico City itself it is a very uncommon sight to see any one on a prominent thoroughfare under the influence of liquor, and when one is seen he is just as apt to be a foreigner as a native.

Any one who has traveled through the northern, central and western portions of the Republic, as has the writer, cannot fail to have been struck with the character of the average peon in respect to sobriety and good conduct. Just as he cannot fail to have been struck with their uniform courtesy, kindliness, hospitality and fidelity to trust, whenever he has put those qualities to the test. There are exceptions, just as there are exceptions among the lower classes in other countries. But it is not fair to judge a nation by its exceptions, and that is the manner in which Mexico has been judged by too many foreigners. To condemn the entire peon class of Mexico, as many writers have done, as lazy and drunken, is a slander without foundation.

The preconceived and stubbornly held ideas of the outside world regarding Mexico found an illustration in the case of an English translator of Baron Von Humboldt's works, who, failing to find support for the popular idea as to the low status of most things Mexican, since the great traveler did not emphasize such things, even if he found them, calmly advanced the unsolicited and unfounded idea that he probably was so flattered and received so many attentions at the hands of his entertainers that he graciously refrained from any uncomplimentary references! Surely, it might possibly be conceded that in all probability the Baron did not find reason for upholding the popular notion. He was a careful observer and was scarcely the man to have wantonly overlooked any prevalent habits or conditions while seeking to carry out his announced design to give an accurate picture of conditions in the New World countries that he visited.

Of course, a traveler who goes to Mexico in order to seek the conditions that support his preconceived ideas will be able to find them. And so will the traveler who visits the United States with the determination to find only such facts as will enable him to hold the country and its people up to ridicule. Some rather prominent writers have done this in the past and there has been a general and justifiable protest against the assumption that the entire country and the entire people were of the same character as the few isolated instances selected by an antagonist as indicative of the generally prevalent condition.

There is not, never was and never will be any nation, no matter how civilized, that does not present an opportunity for criticism in some direction. But while criticising, it would seem to be the duty of the candid writer who is anxious to convey a correct impression, to give both sides, and to err, if at all, on the side of generosity and fairness and find reasons for conditions which to him may seem inexcusable.

An interesting incident illustrative of certain traits of the peon character came within the writer's observation in a little town in the interior. A man of the laboring class had been given a contract to perform certain work, and was so diligent and successful that when settlement was made, all his employes paid, all expenses met, he had a thousand dollars surplus, and this too gained inside of a couple of months or so. The lucky man could neither read nor write, had never in his life had in his possession more than ten or twenty dollars at a single time. In fact, he could scarcely realize that there was so much money in the world as the sum seemed to him when it was counted out in coin.

Of course he went on a spree—doubtless would be the first idea of any one who believes the peones have no thought above liquor drinking.

But he did nothing of the kind!

With his wife he went to one of the leading stores and began spending the small fortune. Clothes were purchased for both, friend wife was not stinted but was allowed to have whatever took her fancy, while the man bought a complete outfit for himself. Food and household utensils were also selected, and still there was a goodly pile of coin left. A handsome and costly silk reboso in a showcase behind the counter caught the peon's eye and he called for it.

The dealer demurred. "That is not for you," he said. "Such fine things are not for peones. They are for rich people."

But the temporary capitalist was insistent and finally became so indignant at being refused anything within his power to purchase that the merchant laid the article on the counter. Its price he said was $75—saying it, too, with a sneer as though the mere mention of such a figure ought to be sufficient to overawe the despised peon. But the money was promptly counted out and accepted by the surprised dealer. Then the peon folded the garment over and over into small compass, drew a sharp-edged knife from his belt, and with it cut through each of the many folds he had made, thus reducing the handsome silk ornament to rags. His wife looked on without a word, evidently sharing her husband's indignation. When he had completed his task he addressed the merchant.

"There," he said, "I will show you whether a peon can have a silk reboso if he can pay for it. I will show you whether such things are only for the rich, as you told me."

And the couple walked proudly out of the store, having vindicated the pride of the peon class.

SEEN IN A MEXICAN PLAZA

(Concluded from page 10)

other for that matter, could surpass these for quickness of apprehension or ability to learn with rapidity. Few indeed could equal them.

Little Juan Jose's father and mother are good friends of mine and when he and his sister pass from school they always stop and we have a little chat. Juan Jose proudly shows his books and the slate upon which is his daily task, evincing great satisfaction thereat! Their books are looked over, and perhaps some candy or nuts pass more or less surreptitiously from "El Gringo" to his little friends. Who knows? Anyhow, the little ones soon shake hands in farewell (even the smallest children are taught to salute their elders thus both on meeting and separating), and they pass on homeward, halting and turning to give a friendly hand wave and another smile to the lonely foreigner.

BUILDING OF A NEW MEXICO

(Concluded from page 5)

gilt shield over the entrance, is unfurnished and bare except for a single room which suffices for the overseer and his family. The towering stone granary, once overflowing, is empty.

In the squat, unadorned communal house, live 100 families—just as many as in the days when they were debt slaves to the master. Now they call the house their own. The new overseer had been sent from Mexico City to take charge of the ranch of "Tio Luis." He told them the Government had taken the hacienda away from the master whom the oldest grey bearded servitor had known since a boy. He divided up his land along the river and started them to farming, each for himself. All were free to use the grazing plain.

They have hopes that in years to come they will have cattle to graze on the plains and that sometime their aggregate stock and crops may equal those which Don Luis got off the land. Until the little farmer, the emancipated peon, gets more than his own scant needs out of the land, there will be little to sell and the nation may be short. That is a temporary setback of revolutions which it will take time and industrial education to make up.

"Mexico is poor, muy pobre, and the people have little. They never have had a chance before, but now they will learn, for they are free," said the quiet schoolmaster.

The estates of "Tio Luis," as the natives familiarly call him, were among the first to feel the demands of the Revolution. He was a "cientifico" of the old school, which did not believe the hopeless human chattels which had always slaved would rise up and demand what they consider their rights, any more than would the placid faced cows in a dairy herd. After paying ransoms for several of his many descendants and seeing his stock and lands in possession of others, he changed his mind.

Though he is the best known of the owners of big estates, there were many others. Some are, or were, owned by Americans or American corporations. Though they did not all treat the Mexican as so much dumb live stock, as did the Mexican land baron and the descendant of the Spanish grandee, they suffered the same. Once aroused, the foot and fancy free peon was for taking all the property he could carry or drive away.

In the farthest south that the American punitive expedition went, it traveled across little more than three estates. First on the Mexican side of the border were the 1,250,000 acres of the Palomas Land and Cattle company, an American corporation with Pittsburgh capital. Next came the 1,280,000 acres of the Corralitos Land and Cattle company, a New York corporation of which E. D. Morgan is the head. After that and to the east was the Santa Maria ranch of Terrazas.

Beyond San Geronimo and stretching to Satevo were the 3,800,000 acres of the late Don Carlos Zuloaga, while to the westward of the American line is the Babicora ranch of 1,500,000 acres, owned by Mrs. Phoebe Hearst of California. Another big holding near by was the 4,000,000 acres of Juan Garcia, leased to the Pearson Canadian interests for the timber rights. There are as many more in eastern Chihuahua.

Don Luis Terrazas for a long time lived in the mansion of United States Senator Albert B. Fall on Golden Hill in El Paso. Senator Fall, as representing New Mexico in Washington, also has a home in that State which is known as his legal residence. His extensive law practice, including various big interests in Mexico, was largely conducted in El Paso. Don Luis always had the faculty of being on friendly terms with those who sat under the gilded domes of capitols.

El Paso was glad to have Don Luis as a resident. It was glad to have the late Victoriano Huerta until his last dollar was gone. He then died in peace. Part of El Paso would not be averse to war with Mexico. The city is glad to have the militia of other States there. Many of its business interests would stand aghast at the prospect of quiet in Mexico. It all means dollars and cents to El Paso and in a lesser degree to every other city or tank station in Texas or along the New Mexico and Arizona border.

One enthusiastic Texas representative, voicing a brand of patriotism not entirely peculiar to Texas, once declared in Congress that there should be only one army post in the United States and that should be in San Antonio. Other vigilant pork barrel patriots from other parts of the country, however, can be depended on to prevent Texas from harvesting all the army payroll.

Any person who talks peace in El Paso is looked upon as a traitor. Everybody talks patriotism. With many of them it is solely a business proposition. Distinguished Americans who came there a year ago to hold a peace conference were ordered by Mayor Tom Lea to leave the city. His was the law firm which represented Huerta. The same day they were ordered away, El Paso business houses were hauling tons of supplies across the river to Juarez for the Villa army. Talk of patriotism does not usually affect the dollar. The dollar of the prospective enemy of the United States is just as welcome to some in El Paso as that of the American soldier it may help to kill. One prominent citizen was indicted for selling ammunition to Mexico.

Bank clearings according to statements in th local newspapers increased more than a million dollars in six months when the army came from all parts of the country after the Columbus raid. They are the barometer of business. El Paso is the largest city on the border and it gets the cream. Real estate business is said to have trebled in three months. Talk of patriotism is natural, being well paid for. To need patriotism Mexico must be dangerous. It is always pictured so in reports from El Paso.

There is another element in El Paso and the larger border cities which farsightedly believes a more stable and even greater prosperity would come with a peaceful Mexico despite the moving of the thousands of the army and militia away from the sweltering border. They see a Mexico with its mines, factories, railroads, and haciendas, peaceful and prosperous. El Paso then will be the gateway through which will flow the commerce between the two nations. Big Mexican interests will outfit across the border. Raw material for manufacture will be imported. The largest wood working plant in the world, which is in El Paso, must be supplied with wood from Mexico. Quick profits of war will be gone but the stable profits of industry will return. Though those who hold these views are the responsible men of the border, they are not the most vociferous.

"Thou Shalt Not Bear False Witness Against Thy Neighbor"

The attention of THE REVIEW has been directed to a lengthy article regarding Mexico written by "Rev. G. L. Morrill, Pastor of the People's Church of Minneapolis," which recently has received widespread circulation in that portion of the press of the United States which has openly declared itself in favor of stealing Mexico from the Mexicans for the benefit of their own pockets. This article was originally published several months ago in a local Minneapolis paper, but, attracting no attention, it has recently been taken up and republished by a newspaper "syndicate." It was so grossly libelous, so malicious in its every sentence, and withal so vulgar in its phraseology, as well as so absolutely false in the major portion of its assertions, that it was not at its first appearance considered worthy of notice. A typical example of the entire article is its reference to Ambassador Fletcher, who was accused of "following Carranza about like a little dog!" The reverend gentleman who wrote the compilation of spleen, falsehood, mendacity and libel makes prominent mention of the fact that he carried a Bible with him into Mexico. One can only wonder if in that Bible is to be found the good old commandment, "Thou shalt not bear false witness against they neighbor."

The article in question having been published in Los Angeles as well as other prominent cities, Mexican Consul Carpio, of that city, filled with indignation at its malignant and insulting tone, wrote a letter of protest to the *Daily Times,* a small portion of which was given to the public. THE REVIEW publishes the letter in full:

LOS ANGELES, CAL., July 10, 1917.

To the Editor of the Daily Times.

SIR: As the legal and Consular representative of the Mexican Government in this County of Los Angeles, and also as a matter of solemn duty, I take it upon myself to most vigorously comment upon the scurrilous article which appeared in the Sunday edition of one of the local dailies, under date of June 8th.

To begin with, I have learned through a personal friend, who is a prominent citizen of Minneapolis, that G. L. Morrill, the impudent author of the disgraceful article, is a person of little standing in his community, although he claims to be the head of "The People's Church." His only church consists of a theatre building which was loaned to him on Sundays in times past by the owner. In fact, this "Dr. Morrill" is held in ridicule in his home city and has been nick-named *"Go Lightly Morrill."* The foregoing statements I can positively prove to the satisfaction of anyone and I am sure that they will be borne out by any reputable citizen of Minneapolis.

I might observe that the policy of the paper in which the article appeared is certainly very elastic and its acts illogical and inconsistent. I base this statement upon the fact that on the 24th day of April last, a representative of the same paper published a laudatory and exhaustive article describing his impressions of conditions in Mexico at that time. This gentleman's name is Howard E. Morton. The article referred to is so entirely different in tone, that the publication of Morrill's insulting fabrication can only be construed as a complete reversal of policy and an unwarranted insult to my nation.

It is almost needless to make any specific comment upon the flagrantly calumnious and scurrilous statements of the misguided preacher-scribe, except to say that the occurrences depicted were incidents of the revolution and the acts of unscrupulous bandits, which form an unavoidable accompaniment of any revolution, irrespective of the country in which it may take place.

The act of executing political prisoners is indulged in in all countries in times of war and is the universally prescribed fate of the traitor. Any statement to the effect that executions are conducted in my country in an undignified manner are absolutely false, as they, when lamentably necessary, are always solemn functions, which are conducted in as humane manner as is possible.

When speaking of barbarism and atrocities, can one recall more unspeakable acts than the recounting of the terrible experiences of the peoples of war-stricken Europe? The worst acts of the marauding bandits my Government has had to contend with, are as mere trifles when compared to the barbarisms practised in the most enlightened center of Europe's civilization. At the present time no nation seems able to avoid some local outbreaks, comparable with the most barbarous atrocities of all times, and surely no nation need be completely condemned for the outbreaks of mobs and acts of fanatics which affect the claims for peace of any nation unfortunately victimized by such occurrences.

The most lamentable and cowardly portions of "Go-Lightly Morrill's" disgusting article are those which refer to President Carranza as the "First Thief" and also the base and unpardonable insult to the flag of Mexico.

In truth it is known that President Carranza has lived up to his ideals, and results show that his policies and indefatigable energy have finally resulted in the uplifting of Mexico and the freeing of its peoples from the yoke of oppression. Mexico to-day, due to his untiring efforts and the effective cooperation of his lieutenants, has more modern schools, hospitals, orphan asylums and public libraries than ever before or than ever could have been expected under past regimes.

This lowly coward, "Go-Lightly Morrill," has the temerity to call our President "First Thief," only because he is safely across the border of his own country, where he is hiding behind the cloak of religion. He never met and surely never studied the sterling character of President Carranza, else, as a disciple of Christ, he never could have used his poisoned pen in the condemnation of so worthy a leader. Had he stopped to consider the stupendous task General Carranza undertook, in the face of so many almost unsurmountable obstacles, he surely would have been more circumspect and it seems to me a shame that there may be no legal means of imposing proper punishment upon so despicable a culprit. How unbecoming an American citizen it is to have so ignominiously insulted the flag and President of a neighboring Republic, neither of which have caused him loss or discomfiture! Perhaps the lure of the space-writers' stipend was his incentive, and this, coupled with his distorted vision and lowly instincts, prompted this unjust and unwarranted tale.

Not only do such unreasonable and untruthful stories make the burden of the Mexican people harder to bear, but they unquestionably deleteriously affect the interests of foreigners in our country, as they destroy the confidence which we have struggled so hard to restore.

A number of worthy and representative citizens of the United States who are property holders in Mexico are willing to indorse this, my criticism of the referred to "Morrill" article.

J. M. CARPIO,
Consul for the Republic of Mexico.

A Commercial Congress convened in the city of Mexico on July 12th, which was attended by delegates from all portions of the Republic. Upward of 125 prominent persons were in attendance, many of the leading enterprises of the country having delegates present. Besides commercial matters, discussions regarding education, public health, etc., were held. This is the first meeting of the kind ever held in the history of the Republic.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

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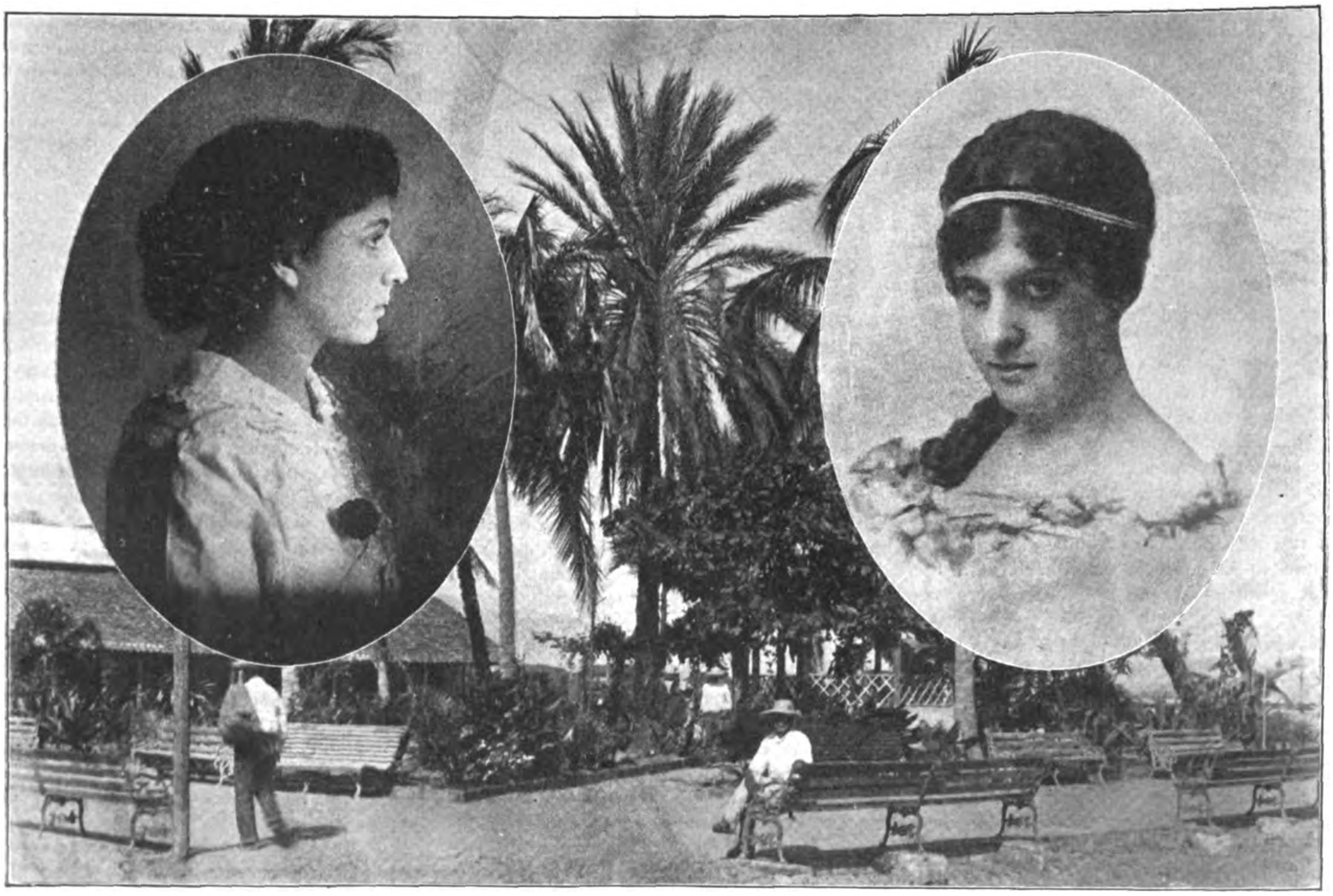

SRTA. MATILDE MEDINA
of Jalisco State

SRTA. CLEMENTINA MAUREL
of Mexico City

Prize Winners in Beauty Contest Held in Mexico

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Mexican Petroleum Taxation

An Official Statement of the New System of Taxation and the Reasons Therefor—Proof that it is not Burdensome

MR. RAFAEL NIETO, Sub-Secretary of the Department of Finance and Public Credit of the Government of Mexico, has made the following statement regarding the taxes on petroleum and its products now in effect in that country:

MEXICO CITY, July 16, 1917.

On account of the development thus far attained and the bright prospects that the future has for this industry, the oil riches of Mexico have attracted not only the attention of all the citizens of the country, but also of foreign countries, as the matter concerned is the exploitation of a product that is already beginning to be of prime necessity all over the world. It is for this reason that the Mexican Government has diligently studied the legislation necessary for such a very important industry, both for its regulation and taxation.

It is true that at the beginning it was necessary to furnish as much aid as was possible to the exploration of the oil zones, explorations that incurred certain expenditures; and since, at the time, there was no definite knowledge as to the extent of the riches in the subsoil of Mexico, it would have been unjust and unreasonable to impose heavy taxes on the companies that were just beginning to dedicate themselves to the oil industry. But soon these companies attained surprising success in their enterprise, and therefore there was no longer any reason why the Government should exempt the beneficiaries of these sources of riches, which yielded them considerable profits, from the taxes that all the other citizens of the country contributed for the public expenditures.

President Madero was the first to devote his attention to this point, and thereupon, in 1912, imposed a small rate of 20 centavos per ton on the production; the Constitutionalist Government increased this rate to 60 centavos, at the time when Mr. Carranza was at Monterrey, on the 20th of July, 1914. This last rate was the first one imposed on oil that seemed to be more in proportion with the great profits that the companies were receiving.

However, the tax by the ton has a very grave defect: First, because the heavier the oil the greater the tax, while the oil itself is of cheaper grade; and second, the lighter the oil the less the tax, while it should be just the contrary. So that the tax by the ton has the inconvenience of taxing more heavily the oil that is of less value, and taxing less heavily the oil that is worth more, a method that caused confusion in the application of the tax, which was later avoided after a diligent study had been made as to a method of taxation based on the value of the product.

As the bases for this study there were taken into consideration: First, the cost of production; second, the selling price at Tampico, and third, the profits received by the companies. If it is taken into consideration that, generally, those profits were almost always more than 50 per cent. of the capital invested, it will be seen that the rate of 10 per cent. of its value was not excessive. However, as the price of oil in Tampico cannot be taken as the correct basis for the calculation of the value thereof, due to the fact that most of the companies sell this product by special contracts in the United States, Europe and South America, its value, therefore, in the United States, less cost of transportation in tank steamers, was taken as the correct basis for its taxation. As the prices are subject to fluctuations, the rates are, therefore, not fixed for each kind of product, and it is for this reason that the Ministry of Finance publishes bimonthly what these rates are to be, taking for their bases the information furnished to said Ministry by its agents in the United States; from information contained in the most reliable newspapers, and from other very reliable sources.

In another respect, as great quantities of oil are exported in its crude state to be distilled in other countries, to the detriment of the national laborers and of our own market, a means was sought with which to compel the execution of all the industrial processes upon our soil. For that reason the tax on the exportation of crude oil was judiciously raised to an amount in proportion to the cost of its distillation. Besides this, and with the purpose of benefiting the national industry, and so that the tax should not fall back upon the oil used in the republic, it was decreed that this product and all those derived from it, and which are consumed in the country, would be exempted from taxation.

The same principles that guided the imposition of the tax on fuel oil and crude oil served as the basis for the taxation on the porducts derived from the distillation of oil, as follows: Gasoline, illuminating oils, lubricating oils, paraffine and asphalt (or asphaltum). On these products, which are exported in a half finished state, receiving the last processes of distillation in foreign countries, and taking into consideration the same reasons already stated, was applied a higher rate of taxation. This was made known by decree of the 13th of April of the present year.

Some oil companies that own distillating plants proposed to the Government a modification of the imposts indicated in this last decree on the products derived from the distillation of oil, by reducing them to a certain amount for the benefit of the distillating industry, and, on the other hand, engaged themselves to reduce the prices of these products in the market for the benefit of the national industry that uses products derived from oil, as well as for the benefit of the consumers of these products generally. The Mexican Government considering these propositions as acceptable, and having previously carefully studied them, saw fit to effect the modifications that were to be made by issuing a decree relative thereto, with date of 30th of June last, which imposes on distilled gasoline and kero-York, and 6 per cent. of the value of crude gasoline or kerosene in the same market. The distillating companies, on their part, engaged themselves to fix for the gasoline and illuminating oil a price that would be altered only in conformity with the Ministry of Finance, making a reduction of 10 per cent. in favor of the consumers generally, and 20 per cent. of the price at which they sell to the public, in favor of the Government.

The Government justly hopes that, with the change that has been effected in the taxation on oils, as provided for by the law of April 13th, not only a large increase in the revenues may be obtained, but also to encourage and improve the oil industry generally, and moreover when the producers will be paying equitable taxes that will be in relation to the *quality of the products.*

The same law, as modified, notably favors the distillers, as can be seen from the reasons already stated.

Notwithstanding all this, the version has been widely circulated in the United States that the Mexican Government had imposed exorbitant taxes on oils. It is said and affirmed that the exporters were compelled by the last decrees to pay the minimum amount of $11.00 and a fraction, national gold, (almost six dollars) per ton, when, in reality, the highest export taxes imposed on crude oils of the best quality, as those from Sarlat, in Tabasco, and Tecuanapa, on the Isthmus, which are alleged to pay a duty of $15.50 and $14.20, national gold, per ton, are only 1.55, and 1.42, or 77 cents, and 71 cents, American currency, respectively.

The American press has also been misled in this respect. There is no doubt that this misinformation was furnished by disloyal Mexicans who never overlook an opportunity in their attempts to discredit the Constituted Government, which has only decreed rates of taxation on Mexican oils that are based on patriotic and equitable considerations, as there is only a desire for a mutual benefit between it and those who dedicate themselves to this industry, which has now reached a high degree of development, as will be seen from the following data as to exportations for the months of March and April:

Kinds of Oil	Tons
Crude	816,745
Fuel	411,178
Kerosene	28,525
Naptha	7,076
Crude Naptha	2,972
Asphalt (or asphaltum)	10,008
Total	1,276,504

For the same reasons the rates of taxation are far from being prohibitive, and even if it is true that the improvements in the distillating industry cannot be of immediate effect, it is hoped, however, almost to a certainty, that men of enterprise will invest on a large scale their capital in the country, once they have become well informed that the object of the Mexican Government is only to benefit the

Pioneer Aeroplane Mail Service

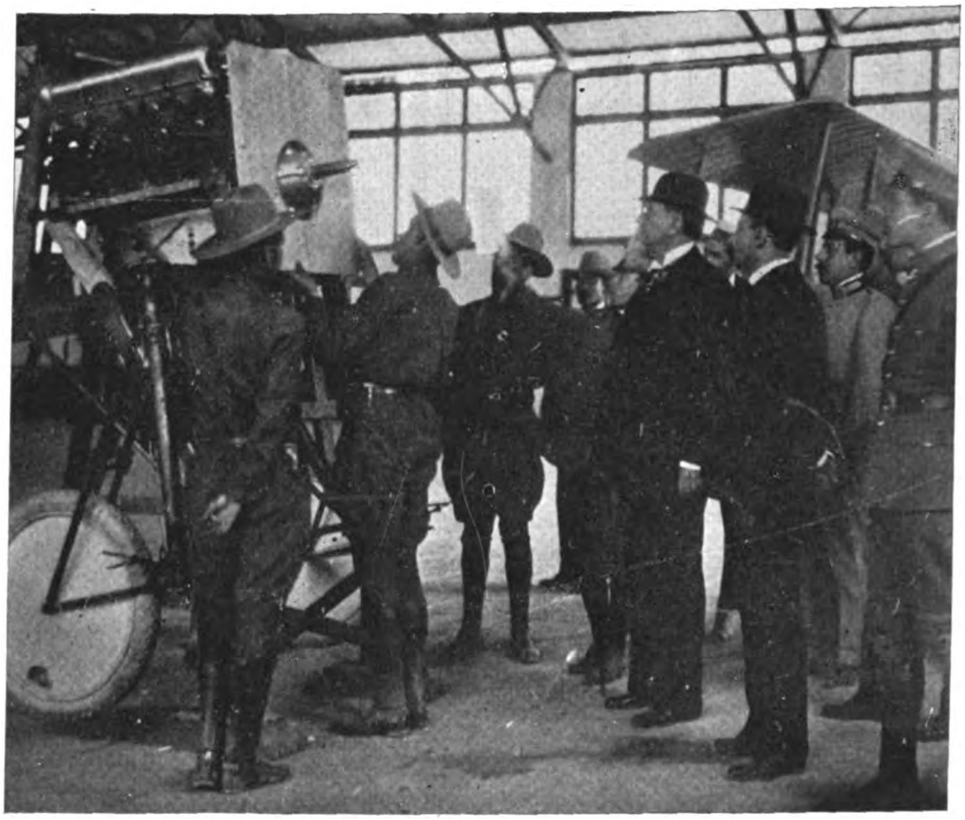
Now Being Established Between Several Important Points in the Republic of Mexico

ONE of the most interesting features of the recent Revolution in Mexico was the part played by the aeroplane corps, which gave very material aid in the discouragement of the usurping forces and their final defeat. Since the practical restoration of peace the development of aeronautics by this corps has been pushed so energetically that Mexico is now able to claim to be the pioneer in at least one feature of this new element in transportation both in war and in peace.

That feature is the establishment of a regular mail service by aeroplane between Mexico City and various important centers of population with which rapidity of communication is desirable not only by the Government but by the commercial world as well. While other countries are devoting all their energies toward the specialization of aeronautics for warfare, Mexico has seen fit in addition to become the pioneer in that direction for peaceful pursuits.

Colonel Alberto Salinas, Chief of Aviation Corps

During his administration President Madero sent several young men to the United States to study aeronautics, chief among them being two cousins named Alberto and Gustavo Salinas, of the town of Cuatro Cienegas, in the State of Coahuila. These youths, less than twenty years of age at that time, had already been trained in American technical and military schools, and took readily and eagerly to the aeronautic instruction imparted at Garden City. Returning to Mexico not long before the treason of Huerta, when the infamous cortelazo was inaugurated by that traitor and before his perfidy had been discovered, they tendered their services to the authorities, confident that they would be able to render material assistance in the subjection of the insurgents who occupied the ciudadela. Their offers were not heeded, however, and they were forced to remain in irksome inactivity so far as this feature of operations was concerned until such time as the movement for the restoration of constitutional government under General Carranza had attained proportions sufficient to make it possible to enlist the aid of their skill.



Courtesy "El Tohtli," Mex. City

President Carranza Visiting the Aeroplane Shops

An aeroplane corps was organized which did excellent service and was many times able to "put the fear of God" or some other powerful empyrean agency into the hearts of the insurgents. On the west coast a gunboat and large numbers of troops were at different times put out of commission through the use of bombs devised and used by the youthful experts, while much good work was also performed in other portions of the Republic, notably in the final campaign against Villa in the region of Ebano and Tampico.

When Mexico City was permanently occupied by the Constitutionalist forces in August, 1915, one of the first steps was the establishment of an aeronautic school and of shops for the repair and construction of aeroplanes, all under the charge of Alberto Salinas, who thereafter attained the rank of Colonel, which he now holds. His companion and colaborer in the early stages of the Revolution, Gustavo Salinas, chose the artillery as his permanent field of activity, rose to the rank of General, and is now in charge of the ordnance factory of the Government in Mexico City.

Colonel Salinas, chief of the aviation corps, had a wide and ambitious vision, and under his tutelage not only were intelligent young Mexicans trained to become expert fliers, but the repair shops soon became capable of turning out aeroplanes the equal of those in use in other portions of the world. With these machines of native product, manned by native experts, some remarkable record-breaking feats have been achieved, which have demonstrated the adaptability of the youth of the nation in this direction when afforded an opportunity for development. So excellent is the product of the shops of the aviation corps, that Central American governments have found it advisable to secure equipment therefrom with most satisfactory results.

The latest feature in aeronautic progress in Mexico under the auspices of the aviation corps is as stated at the outset the establishment of a regular aeroplane mail service between Mexico City and various other important points in that portion of the Republic, including Queretaro, Pachuca, Vera Cruz, Puebla, Orizaba, Cordoba, etc.

Nation, affording guarantees, at the same time, to those who contribute to its welfare and progress. RAFAEL NIETO,

Sub-Secretary of the Department of Finance and Public Credit.

Along the Mexican Border

Some Plain Facts About the Methods Followed in Stirring Up Trouble Between the Countries

BY JUNIUS B. WOOD

II.

WHATEVER real cause may possibly be for intervention in Mexico, there is the same business stimulus in every spot along the border to exaggerate. The tendency is to attribute everything from a murder to a runaway horse to "an invasion of armed Mexicans." It is accompanied always by a request for a garrison of troops. A garrison gives an honest sense of security. It also increases business, as Uncle Sam pays regularly and most soldiers scatter their money freely.

Courtesy "*El Tohtli*," *Mexico City*

President Carranza, Colonel Salinas and Aviators, Aviation Grounds, Mexico City

There are other less legitimate ways by which Mexico's misfortune of strife is encouraged and profited by in America. Not all of the live stock taken in Mexico has been used for food or for mounts by the fighting men of the various armies. A good share of it has been run across the border and sold to Americans or others who do not have scruples against stolen property. Hides, silver, wool, grain and other products were another source of loot encouraged by a ready sale in the United States. Steps taken by original owners to claim all which could be identified discouraged the business to a considerable extent.

Last autumn the center of American fear of Mexico was around Brownsville, in South Texas. On more than one occasion Mexican bandits did cross the Rio Grande Stolen livestock was sold into Mexico. Many times that much more was stolen from Mexico and sold into the United States. Every South Texas town whose name was on a railroad folder had bandit scares, and most of them continued being scared until a garrison of soldiers arrived.

A prominent citizen would dash into town at dusk, show a couple of holes in his automobile and tell how he had run the gaunlet of a fusillade of Mexican bullets. Immediately the townsmen would buckle on all the ammunition they could find, stay up all night and wire for troops. A rancher would telephone how his store had been attacked and troops would be rushed out. In a few instances there were grim evidences of truth. In others there were no tracks nor hoofprints of bandit bands. Sometimes one or more dead Mexicans would be found and too often there was a coolly accepted suspicion that their lives had been sacrificed "to make the story stand up."

Mexicans and jackrabbits are plentiful along the arid border. Some Texans contend there are always two good reasons for shooting either—if they run, or to test a rifle. About 400 Mexicans were shot, without trial or even arrest, in the months of the Brownville excitement. Other Texans who do not follow this barbarous doctrine say that the creation of excitement in addition to the purpose of securing garrisons had a more sinister motive. The large Mexican population of that section of Texas was terrorized. Hundreds of them, some renters of farms and others owners, deserted their crops, stock and lands, and crossed with their families to Mexico. What they had to leave behind was purchased for a trifle or taken for nothing. It was clever landgrabbing.

Along the border on the Mexico side there is not a cordial feeling for Americans. Treatment their fellow countrymen have received in the republic to the north, depredations which they have suffered at home at the hands of cattle and horse thieves from across the border, and other grievances, have fanned this resentment.

One Brownsville citizen who was the loudest in demanding invasion and the busiest in potting stray Mexicans on the American side, had good reason for not crossing the river with the present government in power. They were waiting to arrest him for passing counterfeit money. Besides those who honestly believe that intervention would be best for both nations, there are many more like him who for distinctly selfish reasons want to plunge the United States into war.

Indignities which Americans have suffered in Mexico and their losses have been proclaimed loudly and long. There have been insults and bloodshed on both sides. The feeling against the American is stronger on the border, but it pervades all Mexico and is noticeable among all classes. Some Americans have been killed in Mexico. Many times as many Mexicans have been killed in the United States and little said about it. Americans and American interests have lost financially in the other country, but many Mexicans in our republic have lost their all, and every Mexican at home, except those to whom revolutions are profitable, has paid dearly.

The unbearable living conditions among the mass of the Mexican people was the underlying cause capitalized to start the revolutions. Those who had nothing were promised that they would get what they wanted from their neighbors who had.

More than 80 per cent of the population of the country can neither read nor write. Literacy may not be the ultimate test of good citizenship, but the horizon of the illiterate is roughly limited to what he sees with his own eyes. A former Mexican secretary of public instruction after an exhaustive investigation wrote a pamphlet in which he estimated only 13 per cent. of the population can read and write. Several millions do not speak Spanish,

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Some remarkable flights have already been made and the correspondence facilities thus afforded the business world are appreciated to the fullest. Mails are carried in four hours to Vera Cruz, including stoppages en route, while by rail at least twelve hours and often more are required for the journey. Similar expedition is shown in the case of the other places covered by the service. A separate and distinctively appropriate set of postage stamps has been devised for the aerial service, which as stated is the first regular one of the kind established in any portion of the world.

the language of the country, but persist in their native dialects.

Mexico reaped the harvest of its neglect. In the old days when the church and Spaniard ruled, the herculean task of educating the great mass of the people, native Indians, was only scratched. A start was made, but the church was active rearing lofty edifices and preparing souls for a future world, while the Spaniard, expanding his hacienda, was well satisfied if the Mexican did not learn and become dissatisfied with a pittance for a day's work. Instinctively the Mexican realizes this and his dislike for the "gachupin" as the Spaniard is known, is as great, if not greater than for the "gringo."

"The gringo has given us a chance to make something for ourselves, but the gachupin keeps it all for himself;" they say.

In later days came the men from other nations. The Mexican who waxed rich with the national prosperity put his investment back into Mexico in lands, city property or mines. The Spaniard favored hotels, dry goods, grocery stores or pawnshops. The German went in for heavy hardware. The Belgian built street railways. The Dutch picked off the biggest oil well in the world. The Briton developed public utilities, municipal water works, railroads, harbors, as well as mines, timber lands, oil wells and other favorite forms of syndicate investment. Americans came first and stayed until the latest. They were in every field—ranches, mines, railroads, oil wells, hotels, stores—from the big corporate undertaking, some too big even for the government to carry through, down to the individual enterprise which ran counter to the "finca" of the native and the "tienda" of the ever present Chinaman.

None of these had much time to spare for bettering the condition of the home grown Mexican. The government, national, state and city, had schools, but they fell far short of being accessible to all. That is one of the grievances against the rule of the "cientificos."

What little leaven of understanding that their condition was not what it should be which came to the stolid mass percolated in by absorption. That it was absorbed explains why the country was ripe for revolution when the cry was raised. All the wealth and all the knowledge of the country could not be monopolized by the "cientificos" and there were many of ability and energy to rise up as leaders against the despotism which had ruled the people with a hand of iron while building up a nation great in industry, commerce and wealth.

Over Mexico revolutions have swept like a prairie fire. They charred and blackened everything in their path. The cause for the fire is gone and it soon must burn itself out. More education has come to the Mexican in the six years of revolution than in all the rest of his lifetime. Thousands of men who never had been fifty miles from the "jacal" where they were born, whose fathers' horizon had been limited by the same narrow radius around their homes, saw railroads for the first time, mixed in an outside world of which they had never dreamed and learned how other people lived. The Mexican is hungry for information.

"Que hay de nuevo?" is the invariable question of the Mexican to the stranger who passes the lonesome abode, hut or enters the busy office.

He wants to know what the visitor has of news. That is why information travels so rapidly by word of mouth in Mexico. The man on horseback tells what he has heard and carries away something to relate where he next stops for a drink of water or to munch a tortilla. It is a habit which has become a national trait of character.

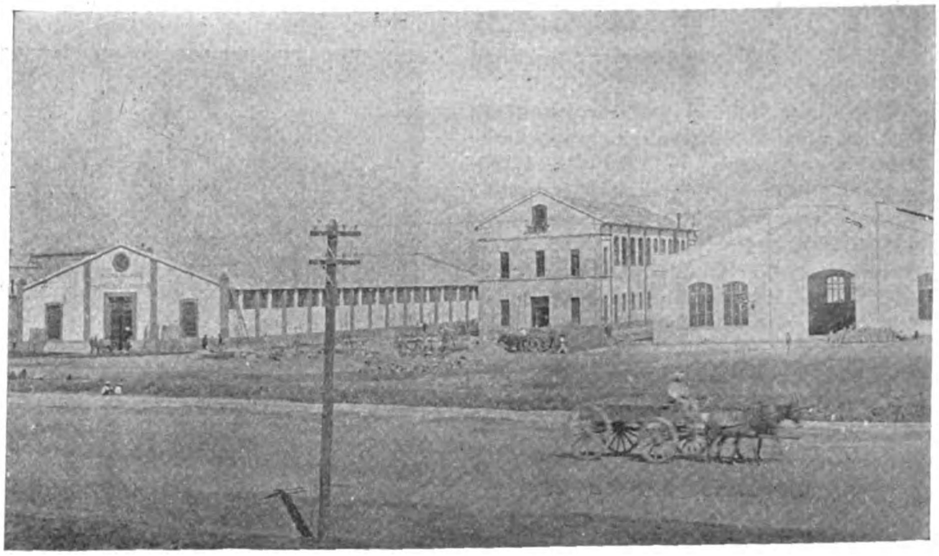
It is no uncommon sight to see a group of soldiers or civilians in a city crowding around one of their number who is reading aloud to them from a newspaper. He skips nothing from the upper left hand corner of the first page to the lower right hand corner of the last. They drink it all in. They have clubbed together with their centavos, their reales and their medio-pesos and bought a copy of every newspaper for that day. Then what was left of the pot was given to a comrade who could read and they were listening to their fill of the world's news. That was a phase of education which they had never had before the revolutions.

To many thousands of Americans also the revolutions have been a lesson. They have been awakened for the first time to the great wealth of the country in mines, oil, timber, chemicals and fruits of the soil and mill. When once peace is again restored it will be a field for foreign capital and investment larger than ever before.

For every big Mexican ranch owned by American or other foreign capital which has suffered, a thousand Mexicans, more or less skimped in this world's goods, also have suffered. It has all been for the cause of the revolution of the common people. Usually an assortment of sorebacked horses and broken down mules would be abandoned by the passing soldiery. The presidente would divide them up and husbandry would resume, after each clean-up, on a more limited scale.

Factories have closed down. There was no market for their output. Outside sources for importing materials or machinery used in manufacturing were cut off. Tributes levied and restrictions placed on them by military leaders were too heavy to bear.

Few manufacturing plants have been gutted. The same is true of the mines, some of which have been shut down and deserted by all except native caretakers for months. Leaders have had enough foresight to prevent wrecking of plants and the soldiery has been forced to be content with carrying off what was loose—a hammer, wrench, bucket, blanket, chair, oil can or board which could be taken just to satisfy the instinct of getting something.



Courtesy "E. Tohtli," Mexico City

Shops for the Construction of Aeroplanes, School of Aviation, Mexico City

The Government will need millions to pay the debt and put the railroads in shape. It will need more millions for other urgent necessities. Less pressing needs can await the return of normal revenues. Loans from outside financiers would give the Government of Carranza credit and stability, and again start private industry into activity.

Mexico with its wealth of exports has a revenue under economical and honest administration which far exceeds its expenditures. In 1909, revenues were $14,500,000 in excess of expenditures. The year previous it was estimated that $800,000,000 of foreign capital had come into the country.

Once the Government in power of Mexico City can satisfy the outside political world that it is there to stay, can guarantee the financial world that the national revenue will be conserved and the surplus used to repay loans—some now owing and as many more to be made—confidence in Mexico will be restored and money will again pour into the country, starting the nation on a new era of prosperity.

The Haven of Forgotten Men

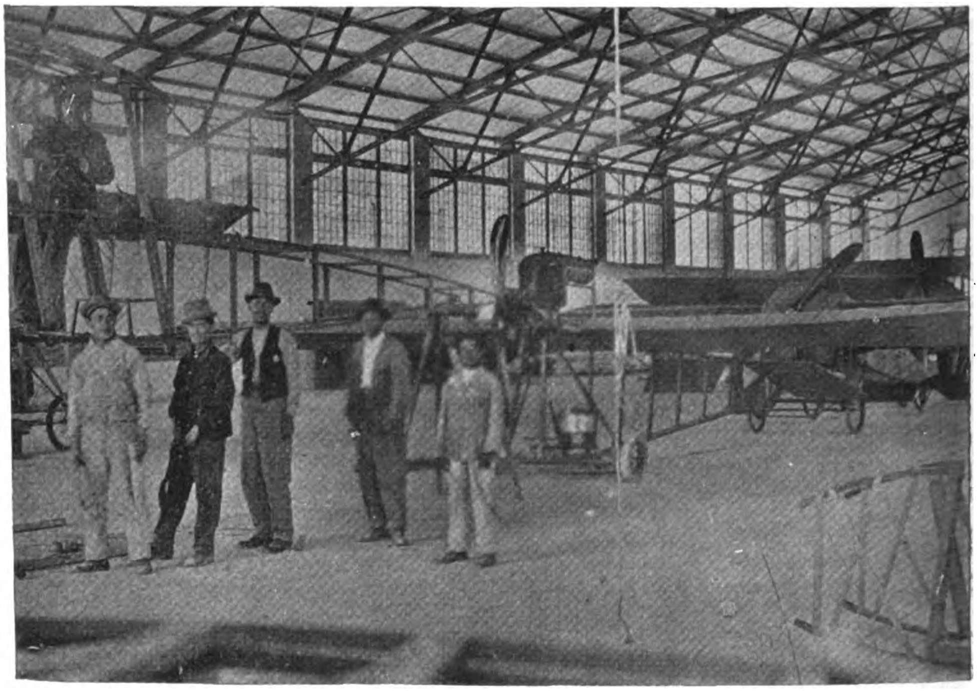
A Favorite Resort for Those Who Seek to Lose Their Identity and Begin a New Life Under a New Name

YEARS ago the far West and Southwest—Texas, New Mexico and all that region since divided into various States—were a haven for those who for one reason or another sought to bury themselves from the ken of their families and friends, to begin a new life, to make new friends, and not infrequently to establish new families and family ties. Many a man supposedly dead and certainly long since forgotten, "went to Texas," which in olden times was equivalent almost to saying that he had gone to hell, and was never heard of more. Sometimes he went with the full knowledge of family and friends, sometimes without. But he usually dropped out of sight and touch with his old associates and was seldom if ever heard from again.

After Texas had lost more or less of its vogue as a haven for men who sought to be forgotten, California and the far Pacific Coast were added. For years it was there regarded as a very serious breach of etiquette to question a newcomer as to his former home or hailing place. One of the first of the many lessons instilled into the writer's mind over forty years ago when he went to California was that old-timers, the pioneers, never asked such a question. If a stranger chose in his own good time to disclose anything regarding his former history or abiding place, well and good. And whatever he did reveal must be accepted as Gospel truth. Far be it from any one with due respect to local conventions, to say nothing of his own bodily welfare, to ever question whatever any acquaintance cared to say in this connection. If he chose to say that he once lived on Mars, well and good. A Martian he was. If with the strongest Southern accent he claimed the North as his home, it "went." If he had a brogue that could only have come from one little island in the whole world and yet chose to claim Germany as his birthplace, then Teuton he was and who should say him nay. If his skin were black as ebony, his hair kinky, his lips thick, yet if he claimed Ireland as his rightful home, then Irish he was! Far from the conventionalities was it to endeavor to pry into any details beyond the stranger's willingness to reveal them, or to point out any discrepancies, no matter how obvious, in his narrative. Observance of the unwritten motto "No questions asked" and it might well be said "No questions answered," was the test of courtesy with both the giver and the receiver of information.

This convention survived in Mexico long after its practical death on the coast or in the southwest portion of the United States. Indeed it still survives. There was a time in California, Arizona, Nevada and others of the pioneer communities when, if some newcomer was guilty of the indiscretion of asking "What part of the States are you from?" the old-timers standing nearby edged away from the vicinity of questioner and questioned, since there was no manner of anticipating the precise nature of the reply that might be given. If that reply resulted in painful or serious damage to the personality of the impolite seeker after information it was always the consensus that the battered one had "got what he went after," and that he should be thankful the lesson in frontier amenities was no worse!

As stated, this unwritten law persisted in Mexico long after it had practically disappeared in pioneer portions of the United States through the influx of tenderfeet, who in time outnumbered the pioneers. To this day when one is introduced to a new-comer in the Republic it is considered as only common courtesy to await the stranger's disclosure of his antecedents and never to betray any curiosity regarding them. After having known a person for some time, it is customary to apologize in advance before asking any questions regarding his previous habitat. In the large cities it is no uncommon thing to encounter persons whose present appellations bear little if any resemblance to those by which they were known in other lands, but it is seldom indeed that any one thus recognized is ever betrayed by the recognizer. If Mr. Jones is introduced to you, you shake his hand and call him Mr. Jones, even though you may have a very vivid recollection and positive knowledge that his name was Mr. Smith when you formerly knew him in "the States." If you recognize him as a man who is "wanted" for some reason or other in another country, you keep that knowledge to yourself, unless indeed his subsequent conduct demonstrates him as being unworthy of consideration of any nature. Many a man who has done wrong has gone to Mexico, just as they have gone to Texas and to California and other of the once pioneer communities, has adopted a new name and has lived a correct life. How cruel then to utter any word or commit any act that might be an obstacle in the way of the regeneration of its object. The accepted principle is "Give the man a chance." If he "lives straight," all right. If he does not—well, that is for future consideration. But above all, give him the opportunity to become a good citizen. No one knows what were his temptations, and no one can be quite so sure of himself as to be able to throw any dornicks at some unfortunate who has succumbed to temptation, and may have repented most bitterly.



Courtesy "El Tohtli," Mexico City

Interior of the Assembling Shop, School of Aviation, Mexico City

A case in point was an incident that occurred to the writer a number of years ago in an out-of-the-way portion of the State of Coahuila. I was seated in my office in a construction camp one afternoon about two o'clock, the open door being at my back, when a voice suddenly broke the silence. There had been no preceding footfall (for a very good reason, as will appear), and no warning of the approach of a human being. The voice said:

"Say, captain, can you do anything for me? Look at me—just look at me! Oh, I know it's all my own fault—but *look at me!* For God's sake help me! I have eaten nothing for forty-eight hours and I am hungry!"

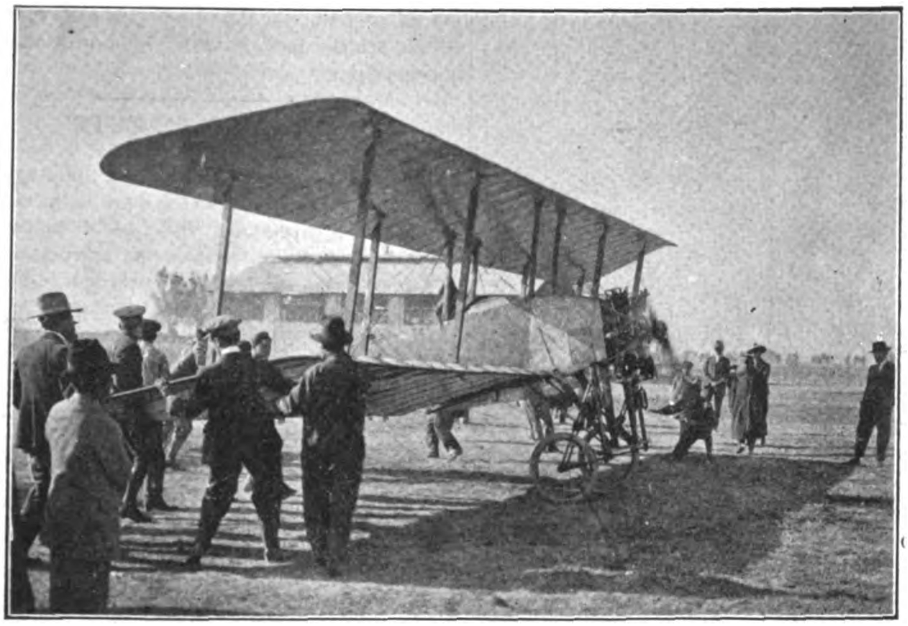
I looked at him, as requested, but at the first sound of the voice, even before I turned to look as requested, it struck me that I had heard it before—one of those fleeting, hazy recollections that it is difficult to localize.

Just two garments, and those ragged and

filthy to the utmost, were all he possessed. He was bareheaded and barefooted. His face and hands were dirty, he was unshaven, his hair was in disorder—in a word, he was the "limit" in bodily degradation of the kind. It seemed, so he told me later, that he had fallen in with some foreigners on a train bound into the interior, had drunk and played cards with them, had had a royal good time (of a kind)—and then had awakened in a cattle corral in the condition in which he had presented himself to me.

"It *does* look as though a little help might be agreeable," I replied. "Come up to my cabin and I will see what can be done." On the way I halted at the messhouse and told the Chinese cook to have a good meal ready in half or three-quarters of an hour.

In a little lean-to addition to the frame cabin that I occupied at night I had rigged up a shower bath made of a five-gallon oil can (what a boon these have been to many a country, especially to Mexico), the bottom and sides of which were perforated thoroughly with a wire nail. This can was suspended from the roof by some wire and into it was conducted an old piece of rubber hose, connecting with a water pipe outside. This apparatus, by the way, was the envy of the entire camp, but always open for use by the cleanly inclined. While the stranger was reveling in the bath, I skirmished about the camp and soon had collected a complete outfit of clothing, not a thing missing from hat to shoes—all somewhat worn, it is true, but whole and above all else clean. Giving them to the visitor, I told him after he was ready to go to the messhouse, get his dinner and then come back to my office. In about an hour there walked in a man who was about as positive a contrast to the one who had appeared before as it is possible to imagine.



Courtesy "El Tohtli," Mexico City

Preparing for a Flight, Mexican Aviation School

He sat and we smoked and talked. All the time I was studying and trying to place him. Finally, I took a chance.

"Didn't you live in ——, California, several years ago?"

The man looked at me in amazement. Also with something of fear. He seemed almost ready to hurry away without another word.

"Oh, that's all right," I said. "You needn't worry. But I thought I recognized your voice when you first spoke. And now I know I was right."

This portion of the conversation went no further. He acknowledged that I was not mistaken, that he had lived in the place I indicated, and the name he had given me was not the one by which he had been known in his old home.

I asked him what he intended to do, and he replied that before he had gone into public life he had been a painter by trade and that he was anxious to find employment of that or any other kind. It happened there was a new coal mining camp under construction a hundred and fifty miles or so in the interior, and that many wooden buildings were being erected. I gave him a line to the manager, with whom I chanced to be acquainted, spoke to the conductor of a freight train, who gave him a ride at the expense of the Wall Street railway stock speculators, and he went on his way a very grateful and more or less happy man.

Poor chap! He had held an office of responsibility in a certain town, had become mixed up in a plot that involved forgery and a very serious violation of the penal code, and had been obliged to take a sudden departure between days. A reward had been offered for his apprehension, but without success. As I looked at him I thought: Poor devil, he had office, the confidence of the public, a nice family, and an assured future. One single act of folly deprived him of it all and he is a wanderer in a foreign land, fearful of apprehension, with no future. Surely, he has been punished sufficiently! He is having his hell right now! And he was!

Away over near the boundary line between the Territory of Tepic and the State of Jalisco, I rode one afternoon into a little town in a most remote region and looked about in vain for any sign of a hotel or even a "meson"—the "house of rest" of travelers by mule, horse or on foot. But none were seen for some distance. As we passed one building, a face appeared behind the bars of the front window and in perfectly good English a voice asked: "Excuse me, but what are you looking for? Are you looking for a place to stop?"

We replied that we were, and thereupon the voice instructed us to go around to the other side of the block, to a large gateway, enter it, and we would find entrance to the house, where we were welcome to remain and could be entertained.

We followed instructions, unpacked and unsaddled our mules, obtained food for them, then washed and went to the dining room which was in evidence on the opposite side of the capacious patio. Here we were welcomed by an old gentleman, white haired, shaggy bearded, clad in white cotton shirt (open at the neck) and trowsers, with cloth-and-straw slippers of the variety affected by the lower class of natives.

He seated himself at the table with us, after giving us a warm welcome, and directed the servant in the presentation of the meal. He was the very spirit of cordiality and left nothing undone for our comfort and enjoyment. So few foreigners ever passed that way that it was an event in his monotonous life and he spared no pains in their entertainment.

In some way the fact developed that I had lived many years in California, and still maintained my acquaintance there to some extent. Then the host began asking questions.

Had I ever been in San Francisco? I had. What had been my business there? I was a newspaper man. Did I know anything about the Chronicle? I certainly did, as I had been employed for many years on that paper. Did I know the proprietor, Mr. De Young? Indeed I did. Had I been in San Francisco the year of the Midwinter Fair—1894? I had. Did I know many of Mr. De Young's intimates? Yes, I knew many by sight. Did I know the man who had charge of the artistic features of the fair? Yes—if I remembered rightly he was a Count Renee de Cornely, who had been a great friend of Mr. De Young and had for a time been a favorite with society. Did I know him—personally—this Count Renee de Cornely? No, not personally, but I had seen him frequently with Mr. De Young and knew him by sight.

Then came this, quick and sharp:

"Do you know me? Did you ever meet me?"

"No, sir, not that I am aware of."

"Do you not know who I am? Do you not know me? I am the Count Renee de Cornely —I—I—I am he! I am the Count Renee de

(*Concluded on page 12*)

· The ·
Mexican Review
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NEW PETROLEUM DISCOVERY

An official report announces the recent discovery of extensive petroleum measures on the island of Angel de la Guarda, in the gulf of California and on the opposite side from Tiburon island, which is close to the east shore of the State of Sonora and almost due west of Hermosillo, the capital city. A commission of engineers engaged in exploring this little known region encountered quantities of asphaltum on the shores, being natural exudations, and after examination of the entire region gave it as their opinion that the oil field was so extensive as to promise to equal anything of the kind in the Republic. The deposit is not confined to the island named, but extends to the mainland on the peninsula of Lower California. Steps are being taken for the prompt exploitation of the measures upon a large scale. The nearest railway and outfitting point to the newly discovered oil fields is on the Southern Pacific railroad of Mexico, at Hermosillo, from which place it is some sixty or seventy miles in a direct line to the gulf coast. From Guaymas, 110 miles southwest of Hermosillo, there is direct communication by water with the island named, a distance of 150 to 170 miles.

THE PETROLEUM SITUATION

There is a widespread misunderstanding regarding the production and use of Mexican petroleum, as evidenced by many publications upon the subject. Some very interesting light is thrown upon the matter by the published hearings before the Senate Committee on Public Lands which were recently held and during which the oil and coal questions were discussed at length. From statements made before the committee it appears that it is a surprising fact that in both the English and the American navies the fuel specifications now in force *forbid the use of Mexican oil!* They distinctly provide that *"Mexican oil will not be accepted."* This prohibition was first made by the English navy, and was followed by that of the United States. The manner in which Mexican petroleum goes into use in the British navy is by having it shipped to the United States, where it goes into a common pool, after which it is shipped abroad and supplied to the navy as the "purely American product."

The fact was brought out that the potential production of the Mexican oil fields was in round numbers a million barrels daily, but that because of lack of transportation facilities the actual production was much less—less than a million barrels per week. Thus, the Huasteca Petroleum Company, with a potential capacity of 300,000 barrels daily (that is, with wells already driven and able to produce that amount, but shut down), is only producing 50,000 barrels, that being the amount that can be exported. "We are producing all we can move," said the manager of the company. This applies to other companies as well. There is no difficulty in getting the oil to the coast, as the wells are located at no great distance from shipping points, and all are provided with pipe lines, there being something like five hundred miles of such lines in the comparatively limited area in which are included the greater number of the producing wells of the Republic. Ocean transportation is the difficulty, and this is being met by the construction of oil carrying steamers as rapidly as possible.

Sr. Gabriel A. Parrodi, Bolivian Consul to Mexico

AMERICAN CAPITALISTS

B. R. McDonald, the representative of financial interests in the United States which are contemplating considerable investments in Mexico, has recently made a first hand investigation of investment possibilities in that Republic.

According to Mr. McDonald, the day of onerous concessions from Mexico has passed, but he believes that capital from the United States will, nevertheless, flow freely into Mexico. Foreigners, he said in a recently published interview, must submit themselves in every respect to the laws of the country when they go into Mexico to place capital. In spite of this requirement, he said, there would be citizens and capital from the United States in Mexico.

Participation by the United States in the world war, he believes, will not diminish the activities of men of affairs who, understanding "that Mexico is to-day the safest and most advantageous place to invest," plan to place there all the money needed.

The only thing needed to bring United States capital in abundance into Mexico, according to Mr. McDonald's opinion, is that the Mexican Government should in some way encourage capitalists to decide to make Mexican investments. The vacancy in the secretaryship of the treasury held up some negotiations by capitalists who were waiting with questions to put before that official before continuing in their plans for making investments in Mexico, he said.

Mr. McDonald, after traveling through several parts of the Republic, will return to the United States to report to those associated with him concerning the financial and industrial situation in Mexico. Oil and agriculture are the lines in which he expressed special interest.

CROP PROSPECTS

Reports from all portions of the Republic to the Bureau of Agriculture are to the effect that the prospects for crops of all kinds are most encouraging. Under the stimulation of the government, which awarded unusued lands to those desiring to till them, free of charge, a largely increased acreage has been placed under cultivation. The climatic conditions have as a rule been highly favorable, and the first crop harvested was satisfactory. The second crop, which is now well advanced, is also in good shape, the summer rains having been abundant for the most part, and the fall harvest will also be abundant. Mexico occupies fourth place in the production of corn, the United States coming first, with Austria-Hungary and the Argentine taking second and third. Italy and Roumania follow Mexico, these comparisons however being based upon production before the present European war.

PROOF OF PROSPERITY

Notwithstanding the pessimistic assertions, unfounded in fact, of a portion of the foreign press regarding conditions in Mexico, the statistics of commerce published by the United States furnish ample proof of the rapid restoration of normal conditions and the growth of prosperity in the Republic. Recently issued statements of the foreign trade of the United States for the past four years show the following regarding its commerce with Mexico:

IMPORTS FROM MEXICO	
1914	$ 92,691,000
1915	77,613,000
1916	97,677,000
1917	111,781,000

EXPORTS TO MEXICO	
1914	$ 38,749,000
1915	34,164,000
1916	43,309,000
1917	77,361,000

RICH PLACER MINES IN LOWER CALIFORNIA

Francisco C. Silver, well known in the mining circles of Sonora and California, where he owns large interests, has just made public to the press, the discovery of placer mines in the northern part of lower California. Competent mining men claim that the new placers are much richer and contain a higher grade of gold than those which gave fame in 1848 to California.

The news has caused a sensation, and like the epoch when, in the United States, it was believed another "El Dorado" had been discovered, so to-day fortune-seekers, mostly of American nationality, are arriving daily by hundreds on the scene predicted to rival the famous Klondyke.

Mr. Silver describes the discovery to have been quite accidental. During the rainy season the waters that flow down the mountain sides diverge into streams as they reach the foot-hills, and it was in these muddy rivulets that some shepherds tending their flocks on the slopes of the Cocopah range, noticed little iridescent particles mixed with the sand. Innocent of the fact that these were of virgin gold, they collected fair quantities, and proceeded to Calexico, on the United States border, where they sold them for a mere trifle to the visiting tourists who frequent the town at this time of the year.

The tourists, by small monetary rewards, soon succeeded in learning the locality where the nuggets had been found, the shepherds themselves acting as guides. Arrived in this rich territory, the Americans made a thorough search and exploration, keeping the greatest secrecy about the matter until they reached Los Angeles, where they obtained the required government permits and concessions to organize a company. Their schemes all in order, they returned to Cocopah, bringing with them all necessary implements and machinery. At the present date this company is employing more than 300 men in the exploiting of these placer mines.

It is noteworthy that among the thousands of adventurers, several Klondyke veterans have arrived, and affirm the wealth of the new mines to surpass that which in days gone by aroused American envy and terminated by the United States occupying California.

Arrivals are also numerous of Mexican miners from Sonora and other Northern Mexican States. From night to morning the Cocopah range has awakened to life and bustle, and even in the mountain depths, seekers of fortune have established themselves in the hope of discovering the source of the water-flow, where it is believed enormous deposits of gold and silver must exist.—From "*Excelsior,*" Mexico City.

Instructions have been issued by the Department of Commerce and Industry that hereafter no one will be given permission to sink wells for petroleum upon tracts less than ten acres in extent. This is done for the purpose of protecting those already engaged in the business.

Alfredo Aragon, Consul-General of Mexico at Paris

Writer, soldier and diplomat, he has shone brilliantly in all. The *Monitor of the Consulats and International Commerce* (Paris), says that he was born in Mexico City, March 1, 1883. His youthful ardor was aroused by the crimes and oppressions of Diaz and he was still a student of the University when he was inspired to write satires, the brilliance and biting quality of which soon made him well known. The revolutionary movement of 1910 found in him an ardent supporter. He threw aside the pen for the sword and joined the adherents of the new cause, distinguishing himself for bravery. When the generous but unfortunate Francisco Madero came to the supreme power in Mexico, he confided to the care of Señor Aragon the very difficult task of managing the operation of the railroads in the valley of Mexico. Aided by a corps of volunteers which was organized at Zumpango, Señor Aragon brought about the security of construction and traffic. In doing this he rendered valuable aid to the general election campaign. The usurper Huerta immediately recognized in Aragon an enemy and after the famous "Cortelazo," imprisoned him in the National Palace, after having had him judged guilty by a court martial. Before long, however, Aragon managed to escape. From Vera Cruz he succeeded in reaching Havana. While at the latter place he became known in the United States as an advocate of the Constitutionalist cause which was then securing world wide attention under Venustiano Carranza.

Alfredo Aragon, Consul General in Paris

Aragon's talents and achievements as a soldier were many. He was promoted rapidly and became a captain of cavalry in a regiment stationed at Piedras Negras in May 1913. Wounded on July 7th, at the battle of Candela, he was relieved and received by Chief Carranza himself, who recognized his valor and attached him to the forces of General J. Augustin Castro, which were then operating in the States of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon. He became a member of the General Staff of the first Chief in Sonora. In February, 1914, at the age of 31, we find him at the head of the general staff of that army which had achieved the success of the Constitutionalist cause. President Carranza next appointed Alfredo Aragon as secretary of the Confidential Agency of Mexico at Paris. Upon his return to Mexico, in October, 1914, he was second secretary of legation, then attache, introducer of the ambassadors and an envoy to Europe on a special commission from his government (December 8, 1914). He was charged with the duty of organizing the consular business at Bordeaux and succeeded brilliantly.

Señor Aragon is an historian of conscientious ability. He has written many convincing articles on the revolutionary movement in Mexico. He is also the author of a novel, "Vieille de Nayarit," and has been highly regarded in Paris for his amiable personality as well as for his literary, military and diplomatic achievements.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA

The fact that the Mexican Government is opposed to the carrying on of any pro-German propaganda in that country is demonstrated by some noteworthy occurrences. It recently came to the knowledge of the officials that a shipment of several hundred cases of arms and ammunition had been made to the port of Salina Cruz, on the Pacific side of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and consigned to certain private parties who were suspected of being engaged in pro-German intrigue in the State of Chiapas. The shipment was ordered to be seized, which was done immediately upon its arrival.

The local authorities of the city of Guadalajara recently became cognizant of a plan on the part of certain German agents in that city to hold a meeting or festival in one of the leading theaters for the purpose of "advancing the cause of the Hohenzollerns against the civilized nations of Europe," as the local newspapers phrased it. The authorities let it be understood that this project would be regarded unfavorably, whereupon the promoters of the movement changed the announced purpose and character of the meeting to one for the benefit of the poor children of the city.

The recent strike of workingmen in the Tampico oil fields which is claimed by a portion of the foreign press to have been instigated by German sympathizers or agents, but of which there is no proof and little probability, was settled by the State authorities and normal conditions promptly restored.

The New England Fuel Oil Company has recently brought in a well in the Tampico region at a depth of 600 meters which flows 800 cubic meters of petroleum daily. The Transatlantic Petroleum Company and the Mexican Combustibles Company have been granted permission to sink new wells in the State of Vera Cruz.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

III

NOVEL METHOD OF HANDLING MEAT

ONE of the oddest sights, perhaps, could be seen on the plaza early in the morning before school "takes in." Boys are sent to the butcher shops for the daily supply of meat—such places being designated by no other sign than a red flag displayed on a bamboo pole over the doorway of the establishment. Which led to a specimen of the genus "turista" remarking, upon looking down a populous street and seeing a half dozen of these blood red banners fluttering in the breeze: "Why, they must have a lot of scarlet fever here. Look at the quarantine flags! Let us get out of here as quickly as possible." And they went!!

Instead of wrapping the purchase in paper, as in the country, a bit of string or maguey fiber is tied around it, long enough to permit of a loop in the free end, which is passed around the purchaser's wrist, and he starts for home.

Just imagine a bunch of American boys thus equipped! The result need scarcely be hinted at. One boy takes a "swipe" at another with his beefsteak, or veal cutlet, or slice of liver, or pork or mutton chop. The other boy quite naturally responds in kind. The friends of both come to the support of their champions, and a real nice, interesting little fracas follows, which only serves to bloody the noses and faces of the combatants, to muss them up generally, but does not injure the meat in the least—perhaps makes it a bit more tender! It is indeed a sight worth seeing!

But not always do the boys fight with the meat. They all have pockets full of marbles, and one challenges another to a game "for keeps." The challenge is accepted. Half a dozen boys join in the game. They lay their steaks and chops and cutlets and roasts down on the grass, or if there is none, then on the ground—small care have they as to the place of deposit! Then to play most earnestly, oblivious of the fact that breakfast may be waiting the prompt delivery of the meat. The ever present dog is on hand, of course, in greater or lesser numbers, and they eye the toothsome morsels so carelessly lying there on the ground.

The boys become so absorbed in their game that they are entirely careless of their canine companions, pay no attention to them, and soon one makes a rush, grabs one of the chops or steaks or cutlets, as the case may be, and dashes madly for a place of safety, followed by the entire band of four-footed companions. And then a battle royal is waged for a mouthful of the stolen dainty.

And then, when the game is finished and an account of stock is taken, the chopless or steakless boy goes crying homeward—though why he should cry I do not know, for never once in ten years of life and travel in Mexico did I ever see a child punished with violence by a parent. It is only in more highly civilized (?) countries that angry parents beat and thrash and maul their children for some youthful offense of carelessness or heedlessness—in Mexico never!

Barbarous Mexico??

REGULAR PRIVATE BEGGARS ON REGULAR DAYS

It is Wednesday or Saturday, as the case may be. If I have left my rooms early and taken up my usual station on the plaza under my favorite china-berry tree, then my "regular beggars" follow me thither. Never by any chance do they lose sight of me on the days designated. For be it known, in small towns like this, as well as in some of the larger ones, there are "regular" beggars' days when mendicants are allowed to make application for alms, but are not supposed or permitted to do so on the other days. And each person not himself a beggar has his regular private ones who call him their "patron" (with a long "o"). Only on Wednesdays and Saturdays are one's regular beggars expected to approach him, and woe betide the irregular ones whether they annoy him on regular or irregular days. They are not permitted to poach upon the preserves of the regulars at any time, and some rather warm scraps have been witnessed when such attempts have been made. The favored beggars are very jealous of their privileges, and forcibly resent any attempt to deprive them thereof.

Of course, at the outset one makes his choice among the multitude of applicants, endeavoring to select the most deserving as may appear to him, and also in keeping with the reasonable possibilities of his pocket in this direction. In this case, early in my stay in Cuatro Cienegas, on the regular days a crowd of mendicants—about all there were in town, as I judged—flocked at my door, as I was not at that time posted upon the practice described. Foreigner and millionaire are synonomous in the native mind. Acting upon advice, I finally selected three whom I considered the most deserving. One was a cripple who had, besides having his legs mangled, lost his eyesight by a premature explosion of dynamite in a mine. His only possession was a violin, and this he was accustomed to play in front of the doors of his patrons, as a sort of notification of his presence, as well as of appreciation for their benevolence. It was impossible to look at this poor blind wreck of what had once been a stalwart miner without feeling the deepest sympathy for him.

Another of the select trio was a man who walked about on his hands and feet, wearing sandals on both and never straightening up. He afforded a weird enough spectacle, and in his case too it was impossible not to pity him. He was said to have been born deformed and never to have been able to stand upright, but had been obliged to go through life in this ungainly and painful position.

The third of my private beggars was a poor, half-witted boy of twelve or thirteen. He could not speak a word. Uncouth noises like those of an animal were the only sounds he was capable of uttering. He was the butt of some of the cruel boys of the town, who used to torment him solely in order to see him in his speechless rage.

As soon as I had made my selections, the three favored ones saw to it that no others were permitted to apply, and a very rough not to say painful reception was given any who dared seek charity from me. But after a while it appeared that one case was not quite so deserving as it appeared on the surface. This was the man who walked on all forms. One day Don Martin saw me give him some money and after he had left, asked: "Why do you give that man money?"

"Why? Because he is a cripple and in misery."

"Yes, it is true he is a cripple and I do not wonder at your sympathy for him! But he has no need to beg. He is far better off than you. He has a fine ranch near Monclova, and several houses in that town, from which he receives very good rentals—enough to support himself and his wife in comfort. He only begs because he knows people pity him and will give him money without inquiry."

Further investigation showed that this was indeed the case, and he was cut off the free list promptly and decisively.

Said another friend one day upon seeing me give money to the blind man:

"Why do you give money to that man? Do you know what he does with it? He gets drunk."

I looked at the cripple—at his poor, sightless eyes, at his crippled legs, at his burned and scarred face, at his general appearance of misery, and then replied:

"Well, so would I get drunk too if I were in his condition."

And he stayed on the list!

I found after a while that when I gave money to the half-witted boy other lads attacked him and took it away, he not being able to protect himself. So I arranged to always have some food in my room on the "regular beggar days," and when the pitiful little chap appeared, always by sunrise on his regular days, I gave it to him and had him sit in the door under my care until it was all consumed.

Later I learned that soon after I left the place, this little sufferer was taken by death—a happy ending for a life that had been nothing but misery to him. But I can still hear the inarticulate noises he was accustomed to make when he was tormented by the cruel boys. It was horrible—no less. True, those boys learned something about what an angry foreigner looked and talked like, and were careful to let the poor little chap alone when in my presence.

"YOU MAY PAY ME WHATEVER YOU PLEASE"

To me one exceedingly hot day, while sitting in the shade of the china-berry, and while a number of others were seeking relief from the excessive heat under the neighboring trees, came a teamster, one Juan Treviño, every inch a gentleman, notwithstanding his humble calling. He had done much work for me, hauling goods to and from the railway station, a mile or more out of town, and we had become very well acquainted.

But first a few words of preface. It is a favorite practice of many who are engaged in performing public services for which perhaps there is no fixed charge, to reply, when asked what amount is due: "Whatever you wish to pay me." This is more frequently the case when dealing with foreigners than with fellow-countrymen. The average foreigner will "stand" for an overcharge and is usually willing to pay liberally for services that the native only rewards moderately—sufficiently, it is true. It is a favorite criticism among some Mexicans that the Americans have spoiled the help of the country by too liberal compensation, though this is as may be.

Thus, in Cuatro Cienegas the regular rate as established by law for carrying passengers between the town and the railway station was twenty cents—ten cents American currency. Naturally, but few foreigners were aware of this, and consequently, after landing at the hotel, when they asked the driver the amount of the fare the usual reply was "Whatever you like, Señor." Thereupon the passenger, nine time out of ten, would throw a half dollar to the driver and think he was getting off cheaply. Because of the known liberality of foreigners in such matters, the native always prefers to trust to that trait rather than to the legal charges.

So with Juan Treviño, teamster and gentleman. He had done much work for me, and as he always replied to my query as to the amount due, "Whatever you please, Señor," by tacit understanding there was a sort of agreement that $1.50 was a fair and reasonable rate of compensation for a single trip to or from the station with an ordinary load.

On the occasion referred to, a whim seized me and when he gave the customary reply—"Whatever you please, Señor"—I did not at once pay him, but said:

"Juan, just what do you mean by that? Do you really mean that you will be satisfied with *anything* I choose to give you?"

"Yes, sir. I mean just that. If you choose to give me one cent, or ten cents, or fifty cents, or one dollar, or two dollars, or five dollars, or ten dollars, it is all the same to me. I shall be perfectly satisfied with whatever you choose to give me."

Wishing to make a test, but entirely as a joke, I thereupon handed him one of the old-fashioned "cart-wheel" copper cents that used to circulate in Mexico as they once did in the United States, and which I was carrying as a souvenir.

He accepted it, did not look at all surprised or discomposed at being thus taken at his word, thanked me in his customarily polite manner and withdrew a little to one side. The spectators, mostly drivers like himself, gave a yell of derision and bestowed all sorts of mockery upon their companion. But he only smiled and never said a word. I waited a bit until the storm of ridicule had subsided and then called to him to come nearer, which he did, still with a smile on his face. Then I said.

"Juan, I was only joking. I did not mean that you should do that work for only one cent. Here is the usual price," tendering him three silver half-dollars.

But he would have none of it. He refused most positively to accept the money and no amount of persuasion served to change his mind.

"Señor, I told you that I would be perfectly satisfied with anything you chose to give me—whether it was a cent, or ten cents, or half a dollar, or one dollar, or two dollars, or five dollars, or ten dollars. You chose to give me one cent. I have taken it. I am perfectly satisfied. You do not owe me anything. I do not want any more money. I am a man of my word!"

F. F. Palavicini, Editor El Universal, Mexico's Leading Newspaper

Nor could he be persuaded to accept the money and I was forced to actually put it in his vest pocket against his will, and to insist upon his understanding that I had no intention to defraud him of his just dues; that it was all a joke, and I wanted him as a personal favor to take the money.

A little bootblack gave me an amusing experience in the same direction. He came to my settee one Sunday morning and I told him to black my shoes. I had seen him doing the same thing for some shoe-wearing peones on a neighboring seat and accepting from them the regular tariff of two cents. He knew, too, that I had seen the transaction and the passage of the money. So when he had completed the task I asked him the usual question—"How much do I owe you?"

He hesitated, looked earnestly into my face, while an expression of indecision passed over his countenance. He was afraid to demand more than he had asked of the peones, under the law he could not, yet he decidedly wanted a better price from "El Gringo" and was puzzled how to go about it. Finally, after quite a period of hesitation, he desperately blurted out: "Whatever you please, Señor." He was rewarded with the price that I had always been accustomed to pay—ten cents Mex.

But I shall never forget how the little chap studied my face while making up his mind, nor the expression of happiness when he found that he had "taken a chance" and not been disappointed. I tried my best to keep my face stern and sober while waiting for his decision, but I fancy he must have seen a sort of friendly twinkle of amusement in my eyes, for he at length took the plunge and announced his momentous determination.

NOTES OF INTEREST

An expert has been sent by the Department of Fomento to the Tampico oil regions for the purpose of securing moving picture films of scenes of interest showing different phases of the oil industry.

For a period the coining of money in the national mint for private owners of bullion has been suspended in order that operations may be pushed in the production of that needed by the government.

The Mexico City press notes that a number of business houses in that city have recently received offers of capital from New York bankers in large amounts and on liberal terms for investment in various lines.

President Carranza has asked Congress for authority to modify certain provisions of the tariff laws in order that they shall be more in keeping with the present commercial conditions, which have changed greatly since the adoption of those measures.

A valuable discovery of petroleum measures has been made on the island of Guadalupe, in the Pacific ocean, which had hitherto been regarded as practically worthless. A governmental commission made the discovery and it is expected that good results will follow.

Preparations are being made to work the newly discovered coal deposits at Honey, in the State of Hidalgo, on a large scale, in order to relieve the fuel situation in Mexico and vicinity. It is expected that from three to four thousand tons can be extracted daily.

A proposition to exempt from import duties clothing made of wool or cotton is under discussion by the authorities and a decree to that effect is expected. This will benefit the middle classes, who wear such clothes, the upper class not utilizing the ready made articles.

Some of the leading petroleum companies in the Tampico district are constructing at their own expense many miles of wagon road, paved with asphalt, for the benefit of their own business operations as well as of the community at large. When present plans shall have been completed the locality referred to will be better supplied in this direction than any other portion of the Republic.

HAVEN OF FORGOTTEN MEN

(Concluded from page 7)

Cornely, Mr. De Young's friend." And he punctuated each word with a stroke of the forefinger on his chest.

Then it came back to me. He had been popular, had received all sorts of attentions, then something happened one day—and the Count Renee de Cornely disappeared from off the face of the earth. It was no discredit to him—rather was it a credit that he had done this. And here he was, away off in this little remote Indian village, living the crudest, simplest sort of life. From the smart, well-dressed, handsome man of society—and he was a type of the society *gentleman—gentleman*, bear in mind—he had come to this: Keeping a meson in a Mexican village. The poor old man! As I studied him and talked with him and ate and drank with him, I asked myself over and over again: Is it possible? Is it possible? Can man change as has this one? Who would dream that the Count Renee de Cornely could have come to this?

He did everything in his power to persuade us to remain as long as possible. Every day he went hunting and came back with game, dressed and cooked it himself, then sat down and enjoyed it with us. He was the perfection of both host and guest, and it was with genuine regret that, my business concluded, I finally took to the saddle and the trail again. He was never weary of questioning us about California and other portions of the world as well. Cut off from communication, knowing nothing of what was going on outside, he had been content to sit here and vegetate all these years. Poor old Count! Many times since this strange encounter I have wondered what finally was his fate.

"Well, gentlemen, I am at liberty now to tell you who poor old Von Schmidt really was and what was his real name! He is dead and he gave me permission to tell you his secret after he was gone."

This was the information from the lips of a prominent physician that electrified the Foreign Club in a Mexican city one afternoon.

And the doctor went on with his story. Von Schmidt had been one of the so-called (emphasizing the "so-called") Haymarket "anarchists and assassins" connected with that bloody Chicago tragedy so many years ago which resulted in the legal murder of a number of men now widely conceded to have been innocent. With a companion as "guilty" as he, guilty in the eyes of those determined upon capital conviction merely to "save their own faces," Von Schmidt decided not to take any chances with "law and justice" of the brand that just then had the upper hand in Chicago, and lost no time in making his escape and crossing the border into Mexico. Changing his name, as did his companion, he settled down, went into business, and while very quiet and reserved, not courting the acquaintance of foreigners, he conducted himself in such a manner as to win the respect and confidence of all, while his death was the cause of universal regret.

Who his companion was, with whom the escape had been made, no one ever learned. The most that the doctor would disclose was that Von Schmidt had told him he was living in the same community, also under an assumed name, and that neither had been guilty of any act which could make them amenable to the law in justice, but that, seeing how their associates had been dealt with, they had decided to exile themselves forever from their adopted homes.

There was the case of a well known American army man, a West Point graduate, who attained high rank, then dropped out of sight. For years he was believed to be dead, no tidings were ever received from or about him, yet all the time he was living in Mexico, under his own name but without any indication in the way of a title or otherwise as to his actual character. He died there a few years ago in the house of a friend of mine in a remote mountain town, and is buried there alone and forgotten.

There is the doctor who is hidden away in a remote town in the State of Durango. He is the only foreigner there, and whenever one appears in the place, which is seldom, he secludes himself. Sometimes he can be seen, dressed in native costume, high crowned straw hat and all, peering around a corner at the passing foreigner, or watching him if he halt or sit down in public to refresh himself. It would not be fair to give his name, but he is an object for compassion. Whatever he may have done, what mistake he may have committed, wittingly or by accident, he has surely atoned for it. He has devoted his life to caring for the suffering, accepting, accepting only a pittance for his services, and that only from those able to pay. His regular fee for a visit is one real, 12½ centavos—six and one-quarter cents in American currency. He lives simply, like a native, dresses like one, and acts like one. Or at least he did when I knew of him. As he was an old man then, it is very possible that he may have "gone over the range" ere this.

There, too, was the railroad man with whom I was wont to go a-fishing Sundays. He was as ardent an angler as I, could catch, dress and cook fish most admirably, and, as all fishermen do, we became very friendly. One day after some good sport and a good meal, while we were smoking together, he appeared restless and at last said: "It is no use talking, I have *got* to talk to somebody and I know I can talk to you and you will not go back on me. I am going to tell you about myself." And he did so. He had a wife, four children and a good farm "back in the States." He told me exactly where. He had got into trouble, had nearly killed a man, had been indicted for attempted murder, but had been warned in time to escape. Under the laws of the State in which he lived such an indictment outlawed in four years, but within that period if he ventured back or his whereabouts became known, a State prison sentence awaited him. It was only with the greatest difficulty and in the most round-about fashion that he was able to obtain infrequent news from his family, as the authorities watched the post-office with the object of learning his whereabouts.

He had stood this as long as he could, and felt that he *must* talk to some one and unbosom himself. Never was a man so absolutely homesick, and never was a man who so loved to talk about his family. Of course I encouraged him to do this, as it was such a manifest relief for him to do so. He counted the months that must pass before his return—two years and a little more had elasped when he made me his confidant, and together we kept tally of the passing time.

Poor chap, he was destined never to see family or home again. Somebody's carelessness, perhaps his own—it was never disclosed—cost him his life one night, and he was given a lonely grave in far-off Mexico.

Then there is the still unsolved mystery of the fate of Ambrose Bierce, the well-known California writer. Every little while some admirer or friend asks as to his fate. Circumstantial accounts have been published purporting to give the details of his death, but they have had no foundation. The last seen of Bierce was in one of the El Paso hotels in the winter of 1913-14, when he announced to a number of newspaper correspondents that he was going across the river into Mexico, where he intended to join Villa, not caring whether he lost his life or not, but in the event of not being able to carry out that plan he intended to "crawl into some quiet hole somewhere in the mountains and pass his last days in peace and quiet."

He never joined Villa, for if he had, the newspaper men with that army would surely have been cognizant of the fact, as it would have been impossible for him to have concealed his identity.

It is true, an unknown American supposed to be a newspaper man was reliably reported to have been killed in the trenches before Torreon in the ten days' fighting in the spring of 1914, but the body was never found, while the description given by a negro officer of Villa's army did not answer to that of Bierce in any way. It is probable that he passed away in some remote spot without his identity being known, but there is always the possibility that he may still be living in some out-of-the-way spot in the Sierra Madre, a region which he seemed to fancy.

This chapter might be prolonged indefinitely, so rich is the fund of fact in this direction. Almost every Mexican town has its men of mystery, men who hold themselves aloof from their fellow countrymen, who look askance at them and at every newly arrived stranger, who cannot go back to their native land, or if they do venture on such a journey, do it with all the secrecy imaginable. They are only to be pitied.

Mexicans as Farm Laborers

Some Sensible Suggestions as to Their Treatment By Employers—Intelligent, Practical and Loyal

BY MISS CAROLINE SHELDON OF GRINNELL, IOWA

DURING the past few months a group of women in our town has been trying to make more tolerable the condition of some families of Mexicans living here. The men, most of them, work for one of the railroad companies, and with their wives and children live in rickety box-cars along the line of the tracks. In some instances two or more families have taken a house together, as in this way they can manage to pay the rather high rent. The houses available for these people are very unsatisfactory. Property-owners are slow to rent to the Mexicans, because of the prejudices of other possible or actual tenants.

For some time I have been thinking of these people in connection with the scarcity of farm help throughout the country. Of course, the Mexicans are as a rule ignorant of American methods of farming and American machinery. However, in the words of a young farmer with whom I discussed the matter: "They are no more ignorant in those respects than any other foreigners who seek employment on farms. They all have to be taught everything from the ground up—and down. While you are about it, you might as well be teaching Mexicans the business as any one else."

The Mexican custom of taking the wives and children everywhere is not without its advantages. Help indoors is even harder to secure and retain than out-of-door help. A farmer could fit up a little house, a portable cottage, or even a room or two in his barn, for a Mexican family. Even in the barn they would be more comfortable than in most of their abiding-places in the towns. The man could do farm-work, the woman could help in the house, and the children, when not in school, make themselves useful in various ways.

The American farmer and his household need help; the Mexican and his family need an opportunity to earn a livelihood. Could not the two needs be brought together in such a way that each could supply the other? A few men really desirous of helping both sides might accomplish great good for all concerned by taking this question up and following out its possibilities.

Large numbers of Mexicans have been employed here during the past three or four years. They have worked on the new college buildings, in the paving of streets and in the extension and development of the drainage system. A large proportion of those now in town, especially of the married men, work for the railroad company before mentioned, though some are employed in the tile factory. In several instances gangs of Mexicans have worked with a college student as foreman or "boss." The students like the Mexicans, who, in their turn, are very loyal to the boss.

Despite the conditions in which they live, a whole family eating, sleeping, and cooking in one room in a box-car, with the soft coal for use in the cook-stove piled on the floor under the table, the women keep the cars wonderfully clean.

Their ways of house-keeping are naturally very different from ours; but, while most of the women are illiterate, they have much native shrewdness and intelligence, and are eager to learn. They could soon be trained as efficient helpers in the work of a household.

If several Mexican families could be established on neighboring farms, so that they could meet for informal social intercourse in the evenings and on Sundays, they would be contented and industrious. If some members of the employers' families play some musical instrument or sing, or if a victrola or other mechanical device for reproducing music is available, very little other amusement will be required. A few records of Mexican songs, such as the national song, "La Paloma" and "La Golondrina," will be most welcome. The Mexican does not live by bread alone; he needs music, and music, and more music; also, he is very responsive to beautiful surroundings. The group of women mentioned in the beginning has raised money for buying a few books in the Spanish language to be placed in the town library, and has also subscribed for a newspaper printed in Spanish. The librarian, desirous of ordering acceptable books, asked one of the men to make out a list. She was amazed not only at the character of the books, but the variety of their subjects. The list included a universal history, a history of Rome, a life of Diaz, and Spanish versions of certain of the novels and poems of Victor Hugo.

General Alfredo Breceda, Former Provisional Governor of San Luis Potosi

These facts make it plain that, to make this plan a success, employers as well as employes will need to be carefully chosen. There must be no condescension, as to members of an inferior race. Whether the Mexican be, as he not seldom is, of the best blood of old Spain, of the Aztec race whom the Spanish conquered, of some Indian tribe, or a mixture of two or more of these races, he has not lost the self-respecting pride which characterizes each and all of them. He is sensitive to slights and ill-treatment; but equally sensitive to kindness and friendliness. In all dealings with the Mexican, the American needs to remember that a race is not of necessity inferior because it is different.

NEWS BREVITIES

New regulations are being prepared and will soon be promulgated governing the importation of arms and ammunition, explosives for use in mines, etc.

A second co-operative society has been organized in the city of Merida, capital of the State of Yucatan, for the purpose of constructing residences for workingmen. The plan has been proved to work admirably.

Efforts by those interested in promoting bullfighting in Mexico City, which have been active for some time, have been nullified by the local officials, who call attention to the decree prohibiting such demoralizing spectacles.

Under instructions of the Department of War and Navy several new corps of Boy Scouts are to be organized in various centers. The movement was commenced some time ago, and the results have proved so beneficial that it is to be extended.

The special commission of Generals Treviño, Montes and Bouchez, which was appointed by the President for the purpose of reorganizing the national army, reports progress. It is intended to follow the most modern system of military organization.

The exportation of bananas from the State of Tabasco has very largely increased during the present year. For one week in July it reached a total of several thousand of tons, the fruit being of high quality and commanding good prices. This has led to a large increase in the planting of new groves.

Governor Candido Aguilar of the State of Vera Cruz has called a convention of those interested in the labor question, for the purpose of drawing up laws covering all questions of employment, indemnity for injuries, hours of labor, minimum wages, etc., which will then be submitted to the State Congress for its action.

It is proposed to convert the famous "Desert of the Lions," in the vicinity of Mexico City, into a national park. The locality is desert only in name and is abundantly provided with natural growth, streams, etc., which will be improved and made attractive in various ways. It is proposed to construct hotels and places of amusement for the accommodation of the public.

The shipment of laborers and their families from various portions of Mexico to Yucatan for employment in the fiber industry continues and steamers leave frequently from Vera Cruz with many hundreds. Many plantations are idle because of lack of help, though the wages paid are the highest in the Republic. Statements in the foreign press that there are idle laborers in Yucatan are energetically denied.

"Let There Be Light"

One of the Fundamental Principles of the Constitutionalist Movement in Mexico

BY F. G. BRASSELL

"The seat of a good school is a fountain of light, immaculate and pure."—R. Menendez.

There is no effect without cause. This is the why of things and of social evolutions.

The Revolution headed by the Citizen Venustiano Carranza, and which to-day is triumphant, has had its cause. Nature with her wisdom teaches us a lesson; everything in her has its beginning, its period of growth and its end.

Plants which serve so many purposes in many different ways, have, we might say, a period of non-usefulness, their embryonic stage. However, once placed in the soil of development, surrounded by the necessary elements to bring about germination, once formed, they become utilities, active and growing. Such is the human seed.

I have stated that the Revolution has had its cause. What is it? The soil no longer produced; it was necessary to fertilize it anew; it was necessary to make changes such as would infuse into the soil new vigor and powers to produce the seed which was sown in its bosom. The agents which were then present had lost their power; the seed could no longer develop; it was time to remove everything.

THIS MADE THE REVOLUTION

The human seed, until then held in an uncultured state in order to facilitate deceit and exploitation, was growing languid in the shadow of ignorance; her necessities were not cared for, her efforts toward intellectual and moral progress were despised, and her rights ignored.

How many geniuses, amenable to culture and to all the learning of humanity, were buried in voluntary oblivion by the rulers in order that their intrigues and maladministration might not be discovered; how many more were deserving of the knowledge essential to fit one for some form of lifework apart from the onerous tasks of manual labor; how many failed to get the light of truth, which would have saved them from committing frequent mistakes, of which the authorities took advantage and used these poor people as slaves, to despoil them of their goods and rob them of their labor.

Light was lacking; the light of truth.

Intentionally, there existed an insufficiency of schools necessary for the education of the youth. "It was not proper to teach the truth to all. This was to be known only by the privileged caste of those human parasites of whom humanity complains, humanity that suffers, which, shedding upon the earth the drops of sacred sweat from her brow, by their labor lost the incentives of life. It was not proper to teach all the secrets of happiness, for we were not all born to be happy."

The great, the powerful, should, as by heritage or privilege, fill their arks with the product of the work, vigilance and care of those less fortunate, who were unacquainted with the financial processes, the intrigues and deceit.

There was no light.

However, everything dies; Mr. Carranza, seconding the efforts of our ill-fated President Madero, and heading the Revolution for Liberty, depopulated the earth of those parasites who were eating up her faculties, surrounded the land with those vitalizing processes which would make possible her germination and development, and to-day, following the high ideals of humanity and of philanthropic patriotism which have always characterized him, opens the door of the school in all directions, without distinction of caste, to impart instruction to all the children.

In order better to facilitate the diffusion of the sciences he has caused an increase of fifty per cent in the number of educational institutions, establishing many of these in parts where heretofore schools were unknown.

In this manner, cultivating the youth, which will be the backbone of the country in the future; in this manner, fertilizing the earth in order to make her yield human seed to our country, honorable and conscientious citizens, will it be possible to give light to the consciences and to open new horizons to the untiring human activity; all of which will redound in the aggrandizement and advancement of the Fatherland which expects so much from her sons.

Mr. Carranza, therefore, has had for the Mexicans the "Fiat" of the Creator, giving an impulse to instruction and multiplying the schools.

Let there be light.

For the month of July, three hundred thousand dollars in Mexican gold coin was paid into the national treasury on account of freight and passenger receipts of the Mexican Railway Company.

The special commission which has in charge the construction of the proposed railway line from San Luis Potosi to Guadalajara has arrived at the scene of its labors and promises to commence active operations within a brief period.

The preliminary inspection of the proposed railway line between the cities of San Luis Potosi and Guadalajara has been completed, and the report shows that the line will afford a very productive region with transportation, lack of which has hitherto prevented proper development.

The State Government of Coahuila has secured the necessary material for the construction of a new railway line called the Saltillo and Eastern, and which will open a very rich but hitherto comparatively inaccessible section to development. The road will connect with the National lines at Saltillo, capital of the State named, but will belong to the State Government. In time it is expected that it will be extended to the gulf of Mexico.

LAND AND CROPS

For the fiscal year ending June 30th the total record of property registrations in Mexico City amounted to $257,977,611, an increase of some $83,000,000 over the previous year.

A periodical under the name of the Agricultural Review has been established in Mexico City, which will devote itself to the exploitation of the resources of the Republic.

Governor Zambrano of the State of Nuevo Leon has taken steps to curb the rapacity of dealers in the necessaries of life by purchasing on account of the State large quantities of grain, etc., which will be sold to the needy at cost.

A local agrarian commission has been established in the State of Chihuahua, by order of the national officials, which will have charge of the restoration of community lands and of the segregation of others for the poorer classes who may request the same.

The agrarian commissions continue the work of the restoration of "ejidos" or community lands in all portions of the Republic, the press constantly publishing notices of such restoration as well as of the establishment of new ones for the benefit of the landless peones.

The Director General of Agriculture announces that official reports from the State of Mexico are that the crops are more abundant than ever before. Much land never cultivated has been planted, and the second crop for the year promises to be more abundant than the first.

It is proposed to make a complete census of all the corn in the Republic, much being said to be stored away, in order to ascertain how much, if any, will be needed to tide over the period before the crop now growing can be harvested and put on the market. Reports from all portions of the country are that the coming crop will be abundant.

The crop of garbanzos, or field peas, in the State of Sonora, the center of production, is more abundant than ever before known, while the war in Europe has increased the price to an unheard of figure. As a result the producers are enjoying prosperity and all lines of industry have been stimulated in consequence.

Lands are being prepared in the district of Santa Ana, State of Sonora, for the colonization of three thousand families of former mine workers who are desirous of supporting themselves by the cultivation of the soil. Every facility is to be afforded by the Government for the successful carrying out of the enterprise and the aid of the colonists.

A local agrarian commission has been appointed in Cananea, the great copper mining camp in the State of Sonora, which will subdivide lands and allot them in small tracts to poor people desirous of cultivating them and becoming self-supporting. The troubles in the mines caused by the refusal of the foreign company operating the large ones to pay their taxes has greatly stimulated the desire of the working people for lands for the purposes of cultivation.

Under instructions of the President, the old corps of rurales, or mounted police, is to be recognized and will again become an important feature in preserving peace in the remote sections of the Republic. This body of fighting men was almost exterminated during the Huerta treason, as it remained loyal to President Madero and was deliberately ordered to advance where certain death awaited. Its restoration meets with popular approval.

Exploitation of Natural Resources

The Secretary of Fomento has prepared the following project by which concessions can be obtained for the exploitation of the gums, rubber, forests, etc., of the Territory of Quintana Roo, the extreme southeastern point of the Republic and one of the chief centers for the production of chicle, the base of the chewing gum of commerce. This project has been indorsed by the President after careful study, and it has been announced that such concessions would be granted under the following rules and regulations:

Preference will be given in concessions for the exploitation of the forests to those companies which will build railroads that later on can be used for general public service and traffic. These concessions will be given for a term of twenty years. The companies holding them will have the right to exploit ten kilometers, with a superficial area of 20,000 hectares (50,000 acres), on each side of the road. Such companies will not be obliged to pay the tax levied for the exploitation of the forests, but only the export tax. The following lines will be considered for the use of general traffic: From Peto to Bacalar; from Payo Obispo to the bay of Espiritu Santo; a branch which connects these two roads; the Bacalar Railroad, which runs to the southern extreme of Lake Bacalar, Rio de la Candelaria to Tenosique, Tenosique to Comitan, and from Comitan to a point on the Pan-American Railroad.

Relative to the exploitation of lumber, rubber, etc., which is found in said Territory, concessions will be granted for ten years and superficial areas of 150 hectares—375 acres each. The parties interested must establish permanent landmarks on their allotments, and pay all taxes levied by the Government. The concessionaires will be under the obligation of opening a ditch six yards wide to separate their possessions from the lands that are destined for repartition, especially in the region of Rio Hondo, Laguna de Bacalar, Bahia de Chetumal, and the coast of the Caribbean Sea. The manner of granting the concessions will be to give annual permissions, which can be obtained from the general agency of the Secretary of Fomento, established recently in said Territory. These permissions will be granted under the same conditions that have existed up to this date.

Public Domain Restored

Under instructions from President Carranza, the Secretary of Fomento has canceled a number of concessions given by former governments for large tracts of land in the Territory of Lower California. These concessions, which date from 1883, give illegal privileges to such companies, who have done nothing in the way of improving the land or carrying out the terms of their grants. These companies also obtained the lands mentioned at the unlawful and ridiculous price of 10, 15 and 21 cents per hectare (2, 3 and 4 cents gold per acre respectively). A concern named "La Compañia de Terrenos y Colonizacion" (the Land and Colonization Company) had more than five million hectares (twelve and a half million acres). Its concession made it the owner of a district situated between Parallel 29, on the border of the United States, and the middle of the Territory. In other words, they owned one-half of the entire Territory. Messrs. Bule, Flores, Hale & Co. owned five million acres—two million hectares. Another concern, the California Land Company, owned over three million hectares, or 7,500,000 acres. The result was that the Government itself did not possess over two million hectares (five million acres) in the entire Territory.

The concessions which have been canceled for failure to comply with the law are those of the Land and Colonization Company and of Messrs. Bule and Flores. The Government has returned to them the moneys paid for said lands, retaining only the taxes which had not been paid.

This will be of great benefit to the Territory, for not only did the concessionaries not live up to the terms of their contracts, but they were an obstacle to the improvement of the region, opposing all efforts for its progress, especially if such efforts were made by Mexicans.

Legal Status of Families

A decree comprising fifty-three chapters and 558 articles was issued in April, having for its object the establishment of the legal rights of husbands and wives, the education of the children, etc. The motive of the decree, as stated by President Carranza, is to establish the family upon a more rational basis, and to elevate the consorts to the high mission in life which society and nature expect of them. The promulgation of the divorce law, some two years since, also made it necessary to adopt the present regulations relative to marriage and paternity. The civil code as it has existed in the past is changed in many ways by the new law. It gives detailed rulings of the bases upon which the Mexican family must be founded, also the various obligations of the different members of the family. The first chapter treats of the formalities which must be gone through with in order to celebrate the marriage contract legally. Next come chapters relative to the divorce laws, paternity, recognition of legitimate and natural children, inheritances, tutorship of the children, etc. The manner in which the decree affects foreigners resident in the country is also pointed out.

All the properties of the Madero family, which had been "intervened" temporarily during the period that prominent members of that family were in active opposition to the government, have been restored without reservation, the condition of the country now being such that action of this kind is no longer necessary. Some extensive properties in Durango, Michoacan, Jalisco and elsewhere belonging to other parties have also been returned after intervention by the government.

Securing Forfeited Lands

The following regulation has been adopted for the acquisition of mineral lands that may have been forfeited for one reason or another:

CONSIDERING

That the right to the exploitation of minerals is acquired originally from the Nation, by means of a title of concession issued by the Executive Power, through the Department of Fomento.

That Article 13 of the Mineral Law of the 16th of December, 1909, directs that the holdings which have been declared lapsed shall not be considered as free lands during a term of thirty days from the date on which a declaration to that effect shall be posted on a bulletin board of the Agency; that done, such lands may be acquired by the first person who shall apply for the same.

That the acquisition spoken of in the form established by the laws in force amounts to the applicant to only the expenses of the charges demanded by the Stamp Law and the fees of the Agencies of the Department of Fomento, although it may treat of mineral rural lands which may have acquired a value of a certain amount, owing to their exploitation and industrial development, and

That it being neither equitable nor just to concede the exploitation of the underground mineral deposits in this case under the same conditions as those of the first, and corresponding to the State to administer with all possible efficacy the real estate under the directing authority of the Nation, it is deemed fitting to decree the following:

Article 1st.—The right of exploiting minerals in virgin lands or in rural property that may not have been exploited, shall be conceded on the terms established by the Mineral Law in force and its Rules and Regulations.

Art. 2d.—The exploitation of mineral rural lands whose concessions may have been declared lapsed, whether it be from lack of payment of the Mining Tax, or whether otherwise abandoned, under the terms of the decree of the 14th of September, 1916, and under a judgment of the Department of Fomento, Colonization and Industry, and which may represent a value of consideration, because of their present state of development, will be conceded by means of a special contract whose clauses shall be established by said department, and without being subjected to the substantiation established by the Mineral Law and its existing Rules and Regulations.

Art. 3d.—In case of simultaneous application for the right to concession of a parcel of mineral rural land, it shall be placed on public sale, and shall be granted to the highest bidder, after previous study by the Department of Fomento of the conditions presented by the applicants.

A project has been presented to the Department of Fomento for the systematic utilization of the waters of the Mayo River, in Sonora, for irrigation. Over two hundred thousand acres can thus be benefited.

Prosperous Laborers in Yucatan

The leading institution of credit in the Republic (the Commission for the Regulation of the Henequen Industry in Yucatan), with the view of establishing more solidly that industry and on account of the scarcity of labor in that section, has decided to devote one million dollars for the inauguration of an immigration movement thither. The laborers will be treated with consideration and in the best possible manner, it being a fact that the working people of Yucatan are the most prosperous in the country today.

The inducements offered to immigrants include many regulations to the laborers' advantage, such as the school law, the liquor law, the labor law, etc. The labor law establishes eight hours as the maximum day's work and no one can be compelled to labor longer than that. The minimum wage is two dollars daily, Mexican gold, and the compensation varies from that to six dollars per day, according to the character of the work performed.

The law protects the immigrant from fraud of any kind. He can have no debts hanging over him as in the past and is free to come and go as he pleases, to work for whom he wishes, and to act in all respects as a free man and citizen.

The law prohibiting the sale of alcoholic beverages is another great advantage to the laborer, insuring the tranquility of his home and also greatly ameliorating his economic condition, as well as aiding in the recognition of the race.

The school law opens an ample horizon to the children and students. Attendance is obligatory for minors. All haciendas and ranches, no matter how small, must have schools and educational facilities. Altogether the lot of the immigrant is to be made as pleasant as possible.

The local authorities of the city of Aguascalientes have canceled the permission granted for conducting games of chance in that municipality and hereafter they will be strictly forbidden, as against public morality and welfare.

A number of former members of the Federal army have petitioned President Carranza to be taken into the national forces, but they were told that the matter would be referred to the Senate for action, the President not having power to grant the request.

The companies handling gasoline in Mexico have demanded such exorbitant prices from retail consumers, amounting to something like 50 cents per gallon in American coin, that the Government has directed the free importation of the article until further notice.

The cotton growers of the Laguna district, the center of production in the Republic, have requested that they be supplied with sufficient rolling stock to handle the largest crop of that staple that has ever been harvested and the railway officials are taking steps to meet the requirements.

Regulating the Railroads

The commission which was appointed by the Secretary of Communications and Public Works to study and revise the laws and regulations of the railroads has almost completed its labors, having revised them completely. It is expected that this important work will shortly be completed. Many reforms are projected which will greatly benefit the treasury of the Republic. One of the principal of these is the provision relating to subventions. It prohibits the Government from granting a subvention to any person or persons who may obtain a concession therefrom to construct a railroad. Another advantage of the new regulations is that all the railroads will be under the control of the Government in matters of inspection and operation. In this manner the authorities can compel the railroads to reform or better their service for the welfare and safety of the public, but in no way in a manner prejudicial to the companies.

As soon as the revision is completed it will be presented to Congress and after the action of that body the reforms proposed will be put into operation with vigor.

Acting upon the request of a large number of young men who desire to be educated at home, Governor Ortiz Rubio of the State of Michoacan has undertaken the establishment of a University at Morelia, the capital of the State, which will be ample to accommodate all applicants.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

President Carranza's Address to Congress

Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO
THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE
AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT
TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE
CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT
· OF · THE ·
REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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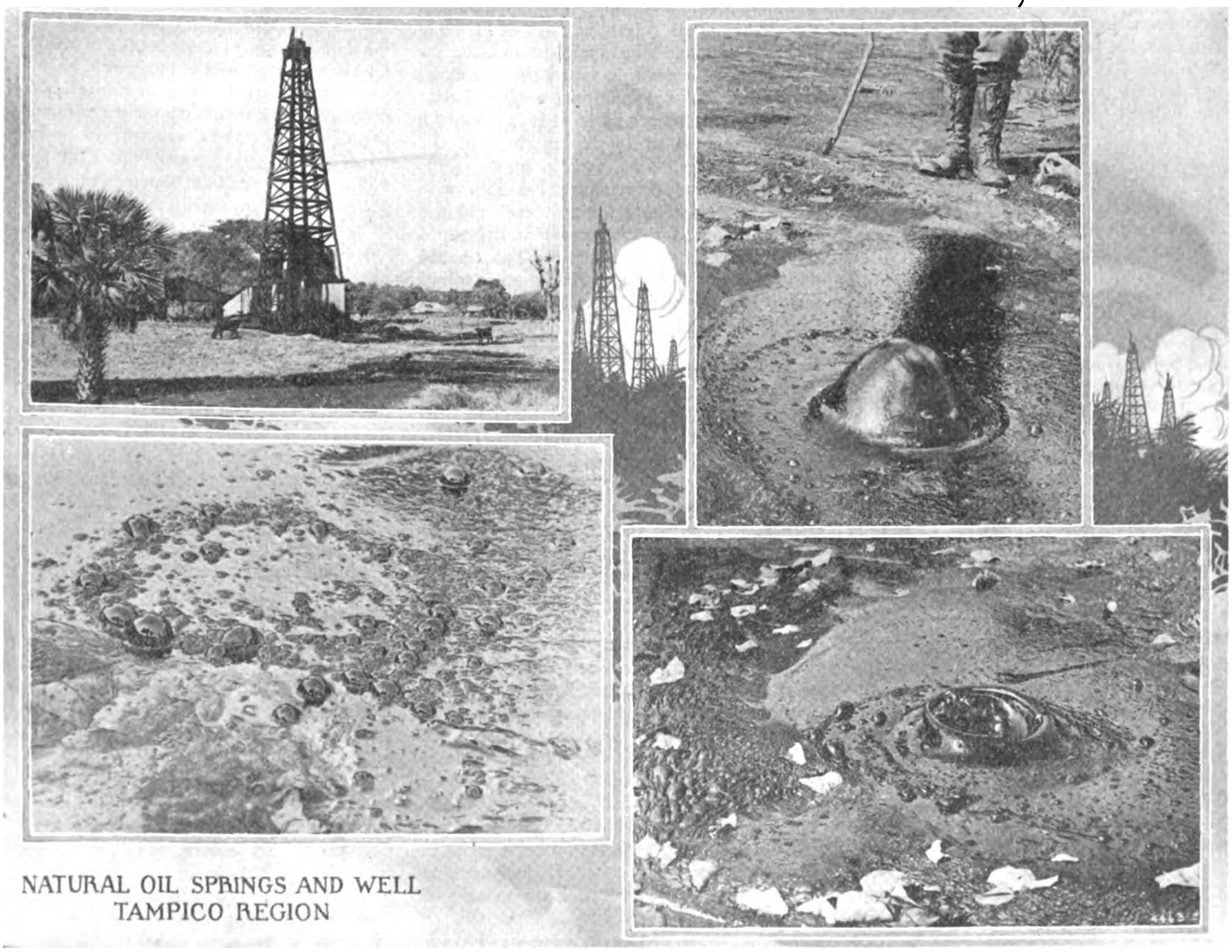

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Mexico's Oil Industry

President Carranza's Address

Delivered at the Reopening of the Congressional Session

September 1st—Condition of the Country

ON THE first day of September the National Chamber of Deputies reconvened after a recess of several days, and President Carranza addressed that body personally, reviewing the progress made by the Government under his direction since his opening address to Congress on May 1st last.

He said:

"Gentlemen of the Congress: It is a source of deep gratification, in obedience to the constitutional mandate, to inform you on this solemn occasion as to the march of public affairs during the brief period elapsed since May 1st last. At that time, when the great charter went into force with the opening of the Congress, it was my privilege to fulfil the same duty for the preconstitutional period.

"The reconstruction of the nation began at the same time as the struggle on the fields of battle, and the Executive has been zealously continuing this reorganization, harmonizing one epoch with the other by means of decrees and adequate measures, and directing his efforts in strict compliance with the law. There have not lacked obstacles to thwart the aims of the Revolution; but it has been my happy fortune to overcome them, to the deep regret of those interested in creating difficulties for the Government.

The Latin-American Peace Congress

"The diplomatic relations of the Government of Mexico with foreign nations have suffered no alteration, and are more cordial than ever. . . . . . .

"This honorable body is already advised that on February 11th last the Government of Mexico addressed a note to the neutral governments, expressing its keen desire to lend its aid in an effort to bring about a cessation of the bloody strife which is annihilating Europe and is convulsing and threatening the rest of the world. As a result of this step, the Argentine Government, through our diplomatic representative in Buenos Aires, communicated to the Government of Mexico its decision to invite all the Latin-American republics to a Congress—which might be held in Buenos Aires—with a view to co-ordinate the several efforts of the Hispano-American republics in favor of peace, without infringing the dignity and rights of the belligerent nations. The Mexican Government gladly accepted this invitation, which was addressed by the Argentine Government to all the other Latin-American republics. Accordingly, on May 1st last, H. E. Sr. Manuel E. Malbrán, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Argentina, notified this Government that the invitation had been accepted by the following countries: Brazil, Chile, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and Haiti, and that replies were awaited from the other republics. The Argentine Minister further advised that his Government would await the acceptance by the remaining countries before proposing the date for the opening of the Congress; that the Argentine Foreign Office had addressed the Chanceries of those countries which had not replied, requesting that they communicate the impressions of their governments on the suggested step; and, finally, that the proposed meeting was not designed to deal with permanent questions of an international order, but to discuss incidents growing out of the conflict, treating the situation which the war had presented to the neutrals, endeavoring to bring about uniformity of views in the matter, and co-ordinating as far as possible the viewpoint of the several nations. The Government of Mexico replied to the Argentine Minister, requesting that he suggest to his Government the advisability of expediting the date of the Congress, adding that the republics which had not yet accepted the invitation might subsequently formulate their answers and attend the conference. But on July 22d last, our representative in Buenos Aires advised that the President of Argentina deemed it expedient to postpone indefinitely the call for the Congress of Neutrals, in virtue of the lack of uniformity of opinion among the Latin-American countries, and in order to avoid a misinterpretation as to the purposes of the conference.

"The Mexican Government has seen with regret that its efforts toward peace did not have the desired success and that the world conflagration has spread until it has reached nations wholly foreign to the issues involved in this gigantic struggle, which has no precedent in the annals of history. Inspired, however, by the same lofty and sincere sentiments of humanity which animated her note to the neutral countries in February last, Mexico will not falter an instant in her purpose to contribute in one way or another toward hastening the day of a lasting and stable peace.

"Mexico would be happy to lend her disinterested co-operation toward the restoration of world harmony; and desirous as she is of contributing toward this humanitarian work, she will not let the first opportunity pass which future events may offer to carry out these magnanimous aims.

"Mexico, in order better to fulfil this mission which destiny offers her, wholly removed as she is from the issues being fought out by the European peoples and respectful of all nations and respected by them, will continue maintaining the strictest neutrality, as has been and will be her unalterable policy."

The various changes in the diplomatic service were recited, while the fact was noted that the business transacted by the consuls in foreign countries had materially increased, as shown by the fact that during the months of June and July the receipts of those officials had been $1,241,567, an increase of $841,567 over the preceding two months.

The convention held in April of members of the medical professions was referred to, as also the aid given to Salvador as a result of the earthquake of June 7th.

The release of a large number of rifle cartridges belonging to the Government, which had been detained at the border for a lengthy period, was ascribed to the good offices of Ambassador Fletcher.

Treatment of Rebels and Bandits

The restoration of the tribunals and processes of civil law received attention, and in this connection the President said:

"The Constitution promulgated at Querétaro having modified the framework of the executive power, it became necessary to draft a bill on executive departments and bureaus; this measure is now under consideration by the Congress.

"The final victory of the cause of the people has been followed by two significant events in keeping with our historical traditions: the appearance of banditry, and the desire on the part of those who are convinced of the fruitlessness of their task to surrender. In the problems arising out of these two conditions, the Executive has submitted to your distinguished consideration a bill to punish highwaymen, incendiaries, and kidnappers, and another bill granting it the right to accept the surrender of such rebels as may request it. The passage of these measures will allow, on the one hand, of the incorporation into the social fabric of those who patriotically lay down their arms, and, on the other hand, will permit of the extermination of those bandits who, with no other watchword than that of crime, are engaged in blowing up trains, in pillaging, and in murdering helpless human beings. In fulfilment, too, of the imperative duty of preventing the public order from being disturbed, I decreed, by a circular order, the expulsion of those authors, accomplices or abettors of the military coup of 1913 or of offenses against the Constitutionalist Government who had returned to the country, excepting those who had come back by decision of the First Chief or of the President of the Republic. This decree will remain in force until the amnesty law relating to these offenders and that of civil responsibility prescribed in Transitory Article No. 15 of the Constitution shall have been enacted."

The granting of pensions to the widows of President Madero, Vice-President Suarez and other revolutionary martyrs was noted. The President stated that he had studied carefully various measures necessary for enactment into law for carrying out the provisions of the new Constitution. The relations of the National Government and the various State governments were declared to be perfectly harmonious and actuated by the same spirit.

Labor Troubles

"In order not to pay the mining tax, the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company stopped operations in July last, thus throwing over six thousand persons out of work. After it was found impossible to obtain a resumption of work, trains were placed at the disposal of the workmen to take them to different parts of the State (Sonora) and of the adjoining State of Sinaloa. Steps were also taken to colonize with families of these workmen several rural properties which had been interdicted. 'La Demócrata de Cananea' Company likewise ceased operating. In Tampico the dockhands of the I. W. W. went on a strike in the same month of July, demanding increased wages and shorter hours; this action finally brought on a general strike of all port employees. The Board of Conciliation and Arbitration, aided by the good offices of the local government, settled the conflict, and normal conditions were restored. Similar problems have arisen in Agujita and Rosita, in the State of Coahuila. The authorities have intervened in all these disputes, acting always in strict obedience to the constitutional precepts and in the interest of society.

Community Lands

"The measures relating to the reconstruction of community lands, in conformity with the Law of January 6, 1915, have entered a period of full development. The duties of the National Agrarian Commission are of a twofold nature: those of a general advisory council, to mold the new jurisprudence which should determine the interpretation of the Act, and those of a board to study and review the records sent by the States, leaving to the Executive the final disposition to be made of each case.

"The Law of January 6, 1915, contains provisions wholly revolutionary in character, and is a complete departure from normal jurisprudence. It would accordingly have required to be regulated in its application. But by reason of the radicalism of its purposes and provisions and of the novelty of its enforcement, it was thought more expedient and practical to take up and decide each specific case as it arose, fixing in circulars the general regulations by which the several communities and authorities charged with the application of the law should be governed.

Subdivision of Lands

"Among other regulations decreed, a circular has been issued designed to forestall a certain tendency on the part of the landowning class to evade the law. This circular provides for the immediate subdivision of lands that are near towns, so that, whenever petitions are presented for such lands, a small landowning class may already have taken possession of them, even though this possession be only apparent.

"According to information in the hands of the National Agrarian Commission, 1393 petitions for community lands have been filed with the State governments. The majority of these petitions are still under consideration by the Local Boards, and only 48 complete records have been received by the National Agrarian Commission since March of this year, of which 21 cases have been finally passed upon by the Executive. The communities benefited thereby have had allotted to them 19,128 hectares by way of grant, and only 76 by way of restoration.

"The lands of the town of Santa Fé in the Federal District had formerly been declared to be national property, in spite of the ancient deeds under which the inhabitants held. As a measure of strict justice, the restoration of these lands was decreed, the Federal Government retaining only such portions as had not been owned individually.

Diffusion of Agricultural Facts

"The situation of the country has prevented the needed full impetus being given to the development of agriculture. Agricultural education and propaganda have, however, been started on eminently practical lines. Thus, the agricultural industries are being taught in the practical courses which have continued to be given in the Bureau of Agriculture; instruction is likewise being given in new methods of cultivation by means of lectures or by the exhibition of modern agricultural machinery. The Government has devoted special attention to gasoline tractors, some of which are being exhibited in the Republic, so that the farmers may become familiar with them and thus supply the lack of draft animals which is being experienced everywhere.

Railroads

"The several railroad lines, formerly administered by the National Lines of Mexico, and now a dependency of the Government under the name of the Constitutionalist Railways, have shown an improvement both in their equipment and in their operation. Representing, as they do, one of the most important factors in the economic growth of the Republic, they have received the preferential attention they deserve, and the figures which I shall briefly set before you for the period of May 1st to August 31st last are a testimony to the zeal with which this important public service is being performed by the Executive and by the corresponding Bureau.

Situation of the Mining Industry

"Of the one hundred and forty-four Mining Agencies in operation throughout the Republic in normal times, one hundred and twenty-three have been re-opened to the public; in these agencies four hundred and forty-five applications for concessions have been filed, and one hundred and ninety-five titles issued, covering an area of 1234 hectares, 73 ares and 232 centiares. There are at present in force thirty-two thousand seven hundred and one (32,701) mining concessions, of which two thousand nine hundred and seventeen (2917) are being worked; one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight (1958) have requested an extension of time in which to resume operations, while the remainder have confined themselves to safeguarding legally their titles.

Growth of the Petroleum Industry

"The petroleum industry will steadily increase, owing to the growing demand for mineral oil and its by-products, and to the supply of this fuel to be found in various regions of the Republic. Sufficient discoveries of petroleum have been made to place this industry in the top rank among the sources of wealth of the nation. Article 27 of the New Constitution radically modified the status of proprietors and lessees of oil lands, and of persons engaged in developing the oil industry. Accordingly, the Executive, desirous of proceeding in strict justice, initiated the labors of the Department with Circular No. 1 of April 26th of the present year, inviting the oil companies, and all private persons whose interests were bound up in this industry, to make whatever suggestions they thought fit, so that these might be taken into account in drafting the regulations of this law. Not only was close attention given to these observations, but a technical commission, under the chairmanship of the Chief of the Petroleum Bureau, was sent to Tampico to complete this study on the ground itself and by means of personal contact with the interested parties. Sixteen permits to perforate oil wells have been granted, the majority of them being located in the zone adjoining the port of Tampico. Care has been taken in each case to state that, in accordance with the corresponding constitutional provision, the party receiving the permit is granted the usufruct of a national property. The establishment of seven pipe lines has also been allowed; five new companies have been recorded, thus bringing the number of those with a duly accredited juridical personality up to one hundred and thirty-four (134).

Financial

"The movement in revenue stamps has been as follows: 48,189,300 'ordinary' revenue stamps amounting to $141,698,812.50; 30,365,040 revenue stamps for the 'Federal Contribution Tax,' amounting to $20,630,960.00; 27,269,139 revenue stamps in 'special taxes,' amounting to $40,766,044.00; 87,184,717 'Tobacco' stamps, amounting to $2,810,046.17; making a total of 193,008,197 revenue stamps, amounting to $205,905,862.87.

"Disbursements from May 1st to August 10th last amount to $22,500,000.00. Daily average expenditure, 317,000.00 pesos silver (peso silver=0.50 U. S. cy.).

"According to information on record in the Treasury offices throughout the Republic, the stock of specie is as follows:

On May 1st last	$5,583,722.55
On June 1st last	5,817,000.65
On July 1st last	6,985,922.21
On August 1st last	8,321,028.51

Taxation

"The subject of public taxation has received special consideration. By the law of April 15th last, a tax of 40 per cent has been assessed on the selling price of alcohols and other spirituous liquors and of 16 per cent on home-made beer; a tax of 40 per cent on import dues, excepting surtaxes, has also been levied on similar foreign products.

"Under the same date, May 1st, the law of April 13th went into force, fixing the tax on crude oil and its by-products. This tax produced in the first bi-monthly period—May and June—an income of 1,374,541.47 pesos silver (1 pesos silver = 0.50 U. S. Cy.) which, compared with that of the preceding period of May and April when the Law of

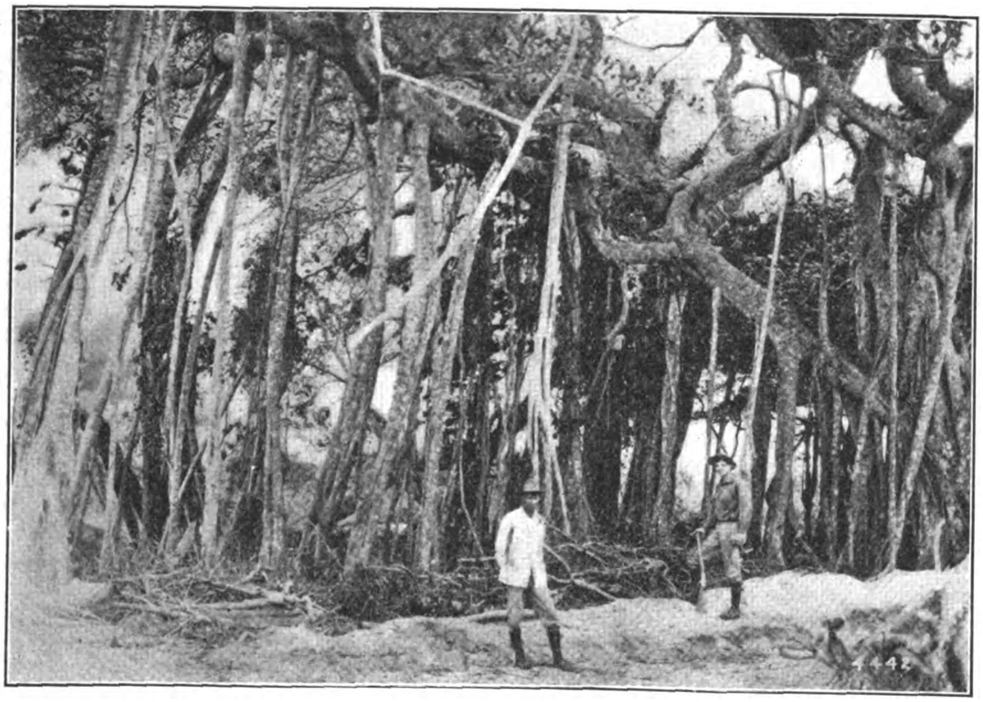
(*Concluded on page 15*)

Mexico's Petroleum Industry

Interesting Facts Regarding Its Genesis and Development—Comparative Production—Rapidly Increasing Exports

A VERY interesting series of articles has recently appeared in *El Economista*, a newspaper published in Mexico City, regarding the petroleum measures of the Republic and their development. The facts regarding the history of that industry are not well known in the United States, and THE REVIEW gives a summary of the salient points as translated from the paper named.

Although there are no definite records as to when this industry was first started in our country, we have, however, found among some pamphlets belonging to the year 1857, some data which show that a group of individuals, mostly merchants, in the village of Macuspana, Tabasco, entered into an agreement that each should furnish "a hundred loads of cacao" with which to procure "sheets of forged iron" to be used in the making of receptacles for the storage of "illuminating oil" that flowed with the water from a spring near the village and which the natives used for illuminating purposes.



Igurron Tree, Tampico Oil Fields.

In another part of the pamphlet referred to, it is related that said merchants obtained within a short time great profits from the enterprise, and as they could not dispose of all the oil at the locality of its source, they visited for this purpose the neighboring cities, arriving at one time very near the capital of the State.

Thus it can be seen that, even if only as a beginning on a very small scale, oil was already being exploited in Mexico as far back as 1857, and although we have no proofs in confirmation, that primitive industry must in due time have improved and progressed.

After a lapse of eight years, the data show that in 1865 a permit was granted by the Federal Spanish Government to a Spaniard, Ildefonso Lopez, to exploit the deposits of bituminous and oleous substances at San Jose de las Rusias, State of Tamaulipas, a place not far from Soto de la Marina, in the eastern portion of the State named.

The Spaniard, Lopez, dedicated himself almost wholly to the exploitation of the "pitch" or asphaltum which abounds in those regions, and also, like his predecessors, the mineral oil that flowed spontaneously.

In view of the good results obtained by him, and upon the publication of a book in 1868 which dealt, even if only in a vague manner, with the exploitation of petroleum in Russia, a group of Mexican planters organized a company which bore the name of "The Development Company of the Gulf of Mexico." Even if the constitution of this company indicated that the ostensible object of its activities was, among others, the extraction of coral from the shoals near the coast of Sotavento, it really dedicated itself exclusively to the exploitation of the petroleum fields located near Furbero, Papantla, State of Vera Cruz. However, the financial object of this enterprise was never attained, in spite of the most rational and scientific methods employed in the operations, because once the capital invested had been exhausted, no new oil indications appeared, and the organizers abandoned the project notwithstanding the fact that in the localities concerned there were places where oil covered the surface of streams.

As a result of this, in 1878, after several years of neglect, Dr. Autrey, who was exploring those regions, came upon the abandoned works and staked his claim upon the springs. Immediately after he had secured the respective permit, he endeavored to organize a company for the purpose of exploiting them. Notwithstanding his great efforts, he failed in his object, and thereupon made a special trip to the United States in order to offer for sale, to one of the petroleum companies that were then operating in California, what he pompously called his "mines of liquid gold in Mexico." Nevertheless, he did not succeed in attaining his object.

From this time down to 1883, we have nothing sure that could serve to indicate the progress of the activities undertaken towards the exploitation of petroleum. In that year there was organized at San Juan Bautista (now Villahermosa), capital of the State of Tabasco, a company with a capital of one million pesos, of which Señor Simeon Sarlat, Governor of Tabasco, was president. This company had for its object the exploration of the petroleum springs near Macuspana, the existence of which was presumed on account of the exterior indications to which we have already referred. The location for the wells was chosen in an ill-advised manner, and by preference near the pitch or asphaltum mines, which abounded in this region, and the drilling operations were begun at the place supposed to be best suited for it, located at a small farm which was then the property of Señor Sarlat, and very near the place where Pearson now has established the most important camp in the State. However, all was in vain; and the funds of the company were exhausted without obtaining positive results. This discouraged and misled the operators to such an extent that they completely stopped all activities in their exploitation, and even that which was necessary for the removal and collection of the machinery, which, exposed to the rigors of that climate, was soon converted into heaps of rusty and useless iron.

Almost simultaneous with this undertaking, the subsequently famous English subject, Cecil Rhodes, was asking for the corresponding permit for the exploitation of the carbides of hydrogen in the subsoil of a great extension of land located in the district of Papantla, State of Vera Cruz, for which purpose he had previously actively worked, and gathered together in New York a numerous group of foreign capitalists, who, in view of the fabulous accounts that were circulated regarding the importance of the oil indications in Mexico, undertook an enterprise that was to be dedicated to the exploration and exploitation of Mexican oil, conferring the local management upon Rhodes. This organization was called "The Mexican Petroleum and Liquid Fuel Company," and like its predecessors in the same line, it failed after using up a considerable capital; and like the one organized at Tabasco, it abandoned its machinery on the ground.

After all this succession of tiresome failures, there came, naturally, what we might properly call a period of deep pessimism regarding the oil industry in Mexico—an immoderate panic that was, to a certain extent, without grounds, and which lasted until the year 1900. At this time, a few American capitalists started to work in the zone called "El Ebano," located in the boundaries of the States of Vera Cruz, San Luis Potosi and Tamaulipas, who, with a display of more ability than those who preceded them, succeeded, after several years of hard labor, in opening up a productive well, then another, and still later a third. Together the three produced eight to ten thousand barrels a day, a production that did not last for a long time, for in 1907 it fell to three thousand barrels a day. From that date, however, began the curious phenomenon of the daily increase of the production that again almost equaled the original.

Production

As is well known, the records are very incomplete in Mexico. Notwithstanding this, we shall have to consult them in order that we may reach an idea as to what is the future of Mexico as a producer of petroleum.

As we have already pointed out, the exploitation of that product was begun in the year 1857, but the meager details that exist concerning it do not really begin till the year 1900, and these, as well as those of 1913, do not coincide with those furnished by the companies and those issued by the Government to several publications. Of these details we will have to consolidate those that are in accord with each other and then compare them with the totals of other countries that produce this mineral oil, for the corresponding periods of time, so that we may know the rank that Mexico then occupied, and then define that which she now occupies. Once we have determined as to where there has been an increase of production, we can then predict logically the place which Mexico can and should occupy among the nations of the world in the production of this precious liquid.

Production of Petroleum in Mexico in 1916

Companies	*No. of Months Production*	*Barrels*	*Cubic Meters*
El Aguila	12	16,376,293.40	2,603,830.65
Brooks	12	1,728,079.43	274,764.63
La Corona	12	557,792.33	88,688.98
East Coast	12	1,110,062.14	176,499.88
Freeport & Mex.	12	1,640,201.64	260,792.06
El Golfo	9	27,643.40	4,395.30
Hispano Mex.	6	5,877.23	934.48
Huasteca Petroleum	12	11,923,411.45	1,895,822.42
International	12	644,203.77	102,428.40
Mexicana de Combustible	3	19,759.06	3,141.69
Mexico Fuel Oil	1	4,564.03	725.68
Mexican Gulf	11	886,179.69	140,902.57
Mexican Oil	9	83,231.51	13,233.81
*Mexicana de Petroleo	12	1,008,702.70	160,383.73
Monterrey	12	25,147.42	3,998.44
National Oil	8	193,262.64	30,728.76
Oil Fields of Mexico	12	112,846.79	17,942.64
Panuco Boston	6	246,285.91	39,159.46
Panuco Excelsior	3	2,014.97	320.38
Panuco Balley	4	104,066.54	16,546.58
Penn Mex. Fuel	11	3,444,490.30	547,673.96
Tal Vez	1	76,048.43	12,091.70
Tampico Oil	3	1,013.84	161.20
Transcontinental	10	171,888.30	27,330.24
*Vera Cruz & Mexico Oil Syndicate	12	157,149.18	24,986.72
La Victoria	1	252.76	40.19
		40,550,468.86	6,447,524.55

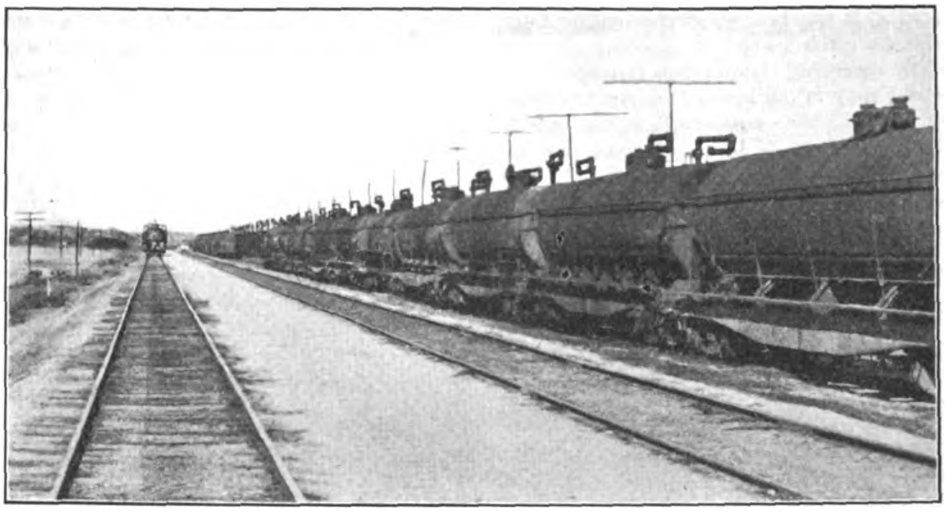
*Same Ownership as the Huasteca Co.

Location and Extension of the Oil Fields

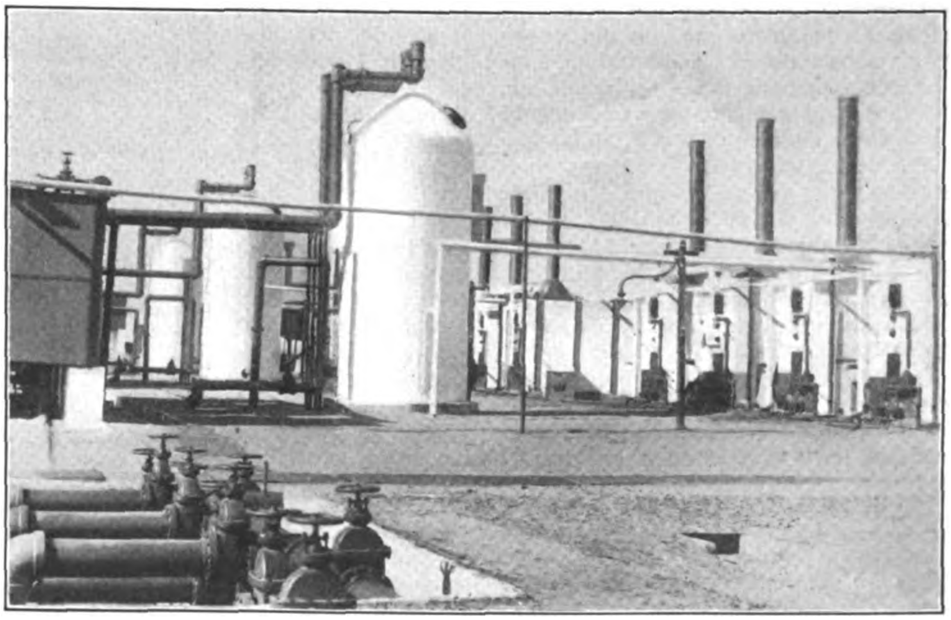
Though the Government has by decree clearly defined the zones for which corresponding license will be issued for the exploitation of the petroleum springs, we believe it pertinent to point out as a whole the region that, according to many practical and professional men, is best suited for the exploitation which we are studying.

The eastern slope of the Gulf, beginning from the branches of the eastern Mexican Sierra Madre, as far as very near the littoral, excepting a few small zones therein, is considered by many natives and foreigners as a deposit of enormous quantities of hydrocarbides of hydrogen. This zone extends for seven degrees North longitude, from parallel 17 to parallel 24.

This great extension of land, which covers the southern half of the State of Tamaulipas, almost all of Vera Cruz, and parts of the States of San Luis Potosi, Puebla and Hidalgo, is calculated to have a superficial area of a little more than 60,000 square kilometers, excluding some small portions that are not suited for this exploitation.



Train of Tank Cars.



Refining Plant, Tampico.

Besides this region, there are other zones of sufficient importance but which are badly defined, such as those of Tabasco-Chiapas, which extends from parallel 17, passing to the north of Chiapas to parallel 18, crossing from east to west the middle of the State of Tabasco, with a perpendicular dimension, in relation to it, of two and half degrees; those of Lower California, which are as yet altogether undefined, and those of the States in the northern part of the Republic, preferably those of Nuevo Leon.

Specific Character of Petroleum Regions

The same publication from which the foregoing has been condensed (*El Economista*) gives the following summary of the various petroleum belts of the Republic, the data, however, not being so complete as could have been wished.

Those portions of the country that have been exploited can be reduced into four distinct regions. First, that called Panuco, to the east and southeast of Tampico, and which is given first place, not on account of its present or future importance, but by being the most extensively explored; second, that of Tuxpam (south of Tampico), which in the judgment of the publication quoted is undoubtedly of greatest importance, especially in the future; third, that of Tabasco-Chiapas; and fourth, that of the Isthmus, located on the continental "narrowness" of Tehuantepec. This last one has very little importance, notwithstanding the fact that it was here where the first oil enterprise was undertaken.

The foregoing classification is made by referring only to the general location and without taking into consideration the specific character of the products obtained, nor the geological conditions of the soil, in each region, which could indicate whether or not the oil all comes from the same vein. It might be thought that the petroleum zones of Lower California and those in the north of the Republic have been forgotten; but it must be taken into consideration that those fields still remain unexplored, and for this reason, and on account also of the fact that there are no details concerning them, they should not, therefore, have now the importance of the others above mentioned.

Panuco River and City of Tampico.

That of the Panuco is characterized especially by three essential points: The minor depth at which the oil deposits are reached (600 to 800 metres, the exceptions that have been observed only tending to affirm the rule); the relatively few failures in the drilling of wells in the region, and the short duration of the production of its wells.

That of Tuxpam, unlike the foregoing and others, has shown signs that the deposit from which the oil is extracted, which is of dolomitic lime, seems more extensive, as shown by the long periods of productivity of its wells.

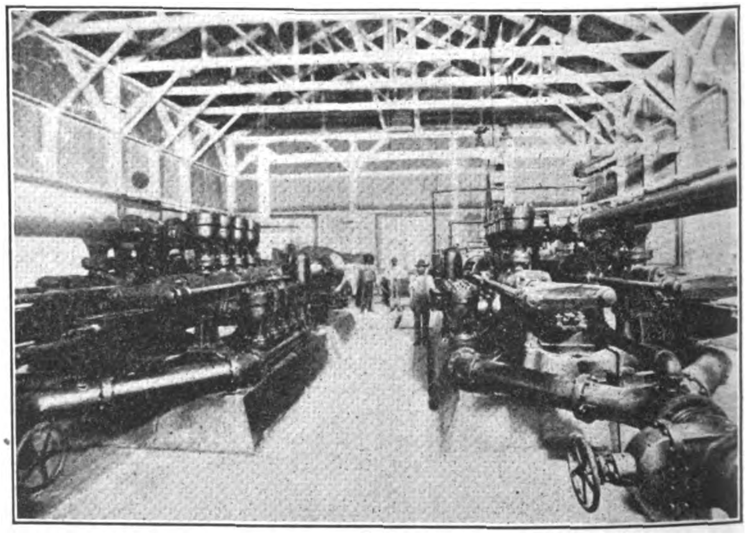
That of Tabasco-Chiapas, though it has not produced considerable quantities down to date, has a bright future on account of the magnificent quality of its products, which have bases of paraffin, very light, and containing enormous proportions of illuminating oils.

On the contrary, that of Tuxpam and the oil region of the Isthmus is characterized by the very short period of production of its oil wells. Like those of the Panuco, the veins that have been discovered at the Isthmus down to date have been reached at comparatively minor depths.

From the foregoing considerations it is gathered that the regions that have the brightest future for the industry are that of Tuxpam, by reason of the amount and duration of its productions, and that of Tabasco-Chiapas in respect to quality.

If each one of these regions in the country which are considered as having the brightest future are successively compared with their like in other countries, it will be seen that those of Mexico have the advantage over those of foreign lands. The comparison will be commenced with that of Tuxpam.

It has recently been stated in an American newspaper, as a curious piece of news, that a well in Texas flowed with a pressure of 180 pounds per cubic inch; that is, approximately 27½ kilos per cubic centimeters, having kept up this pressure for three years and five months.


Oil Pumping Plant.

In Mexico, without being considered as a notable case, the well Juan Casiano, on the 16th of September, 1910, flowed with an initial pressure of 40 kilograms per cubic centimeter and which after six years and ten months has only gone down to 38.4 kilograms per cubic centimeter. Moreover, well No. 4, of Potrero del Llano, flowed at the outset with a pressure of *sixty-five kilograms* per cubic centimeter and has remained the same down to date.

Among these facts, what is notable is not precisely the great yield of the Mexican wells —because in other countries there have been wells of greater efficiency than that attained by those of the Republic, excepting that of Dos Bocas, which undoubtedly was the greatest oil geyser that ever flowed in the world (200,000 barrels per day during all its life)—but the long term that is observed in their unitary production which is evidenced from the beginning.

When the region of Tabasco-Chiapas is referred to, all the scientific reports submitted in the geological institutes of the United States, Germany, France and Mexico have clearly shown, through respective analysis, that the samples of oil sent from Macuspana, Tabasco, were of the finest oil known.

On the other hand, it should not be strange that the Mexican production, notwithstanding the advantages that have already been pointed out, is inferior to that of North America and almost equal to that of Russia (during the last year past it was superior), for the reason that, while there are more than 200,000 wells in the United States, there are less than 1100 wells in Mexico. (Less than 300 are producing.)

Dividing the quantity of petroleum produced in 1916 in the United States among the number of wells that are under exploitation

Production of Petroleum in the Principal Countries from 1910 to 1915 inclusive

Countries	1910		1911		1912		1913		1914		1915	
	Barrels	*Metric tons*	*Barrels*	*Metric tons*	*Barrels*	*Metric tons*	*Barrels*	*Metric tons*	*Barrels*	*Metric tons*	*Barrels*	*Metric tons*
United States........	209,556,048	27,940,806	220,449,391	29,393,252	222,113,218	29,615,098	248,446,230	33,126,164	265,762,535	35,435,005	281,104,104	37,480,547
Russia..............	70,336,574	9,378,210	66,183,691	9,066,259	68,019,208	9,317,700	60,935,482	8,124,731	67,020,522	8,936,070	68,548,062	9,353,077
MEXICO...........	3,332,807	444,374	14,051,643	1,873,552	16,558,215	2,207,762	25,696,291	3,426,172	26,235,403	3,489,309	32,910,508	4,388,068
Dutch Indies.........	11,030,620	1,495,715	12,172,949	1,670,668	10,845,624	1,478,132	11,966,857	1,534,223	12,705,208	1,634,403	12,386,808	1,710,445
Roumania...........	9,722,958	1,352,289	11,101,878	1,544,072	12,991,913	1,806,942	13,554,768	1,885,225	12,826,579	1,783,947	12,029,913	1,673,145
India...............	6,137,990	818,400	6,451,203	897,184	7,116,672	989,801	7,500,000	1,000,000	8,000,000	1,066,667	7,400,000	986,667
Galicia.............	12,673,688	1,762,560	10,485,726	1,458,275	8,535,174	1,187,007	7,818,130	1,087,286	5,033,350	700,000	4,158,899	578,388
Japan..............	1,930,661	257,421	1,658,903	221,187	1,671,405	222,854	1,942,009	258,934	2,738,378	365,117	3,118,464	415,785
Germany............	1,032,522	145,168	1,017,045	142,966	1,031,050	144,934	995,764	140,000	995,764	140,000	995,764	140,000

there, each well produced, approximately, only five barrels daily. If we follow the identical process with respect to Mexico—that is, if we divide the 40,000,000 barrels that were extracted in 1916, among the 1100 wells under exploitation—we find that the daily production per well was approximately one hundred barrels, which means a unitary production of Mexico twenty times greater than that of the United States. And it cannot be alleged that this is so because in the neighboring country the wells are not allowed to flow at full pressure, as there they have all appliances with which to make them yield as much as possible in the shortest time; and if another way is pursued in Mexico, it would show an absolute lack of knowledge of the matter, a thing that is not characteristic of the American people, who have distinguished themselves by their economic proclivities. On the other hand, in Mexico, it has been evident that the wells, in many instances, are allowed to flow only at half pressure, and not voluntarily, but on account of the lack of means of transportation, as pipe lines, tank steamers, railroads, etc.

Street Scene in Tampico.

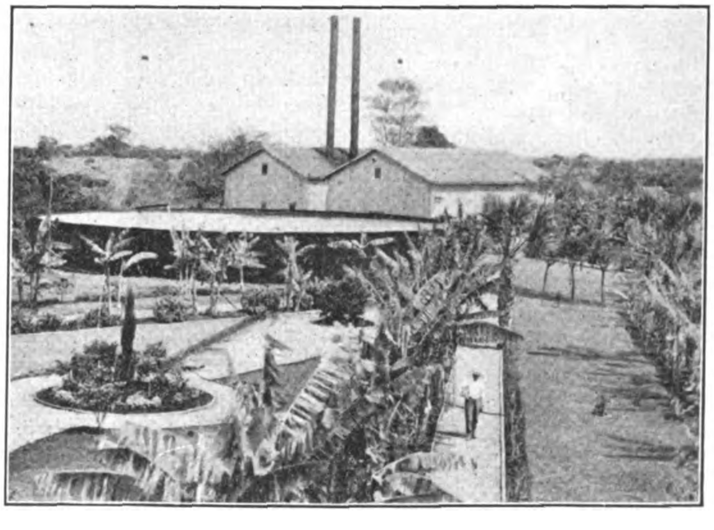
Moreover, if it is accepted, without acknowledging it, that by not extracting all that a well can produce in the United States is what determines that lowest unitary production in that country, we could do no more than put one advantage against another, because then our superiority would not depend upon the potentiality (or power) but upon the durability of the wells, which, if allowed to flow at half pressure in the United States, would continue rendering their commercial yield of to-day, while, if allowed to flow at full pressure, they would not last as long.

Further Interesting Details

The Review has learned some further facts regarding the development of the petroleum measures of the Republic which may be of interest to its readers.

The first American to engage in exploitation was a sea captain who invested every cent he could raise in sinking a well 500 feet in depth at the asphaltum deposits near Llano Grande, in the Tampico district. He was confident of success, but was unable to convince others of it, and in despair committed suicide. Subsequent events have demonstrated how well founded was his belief.

In 1900 E. L. Doheny, who had taken a prominent part in the development of oil in California, made a contract with the Mexican Central Railroad to furnish it all the fuel oil it could use at the rate of $1.20 Mexican gold per barrel, and at once began pushing the development of the Tampico region, of which they were the pioneers, and not the Pearsons, as has been stated. The Mexican Petroleum Company, the concern organized by Mr. Doheny and his associates, brought in their first well in 1901, and it was not until 1904 that the first Pearson well was completed.



Oil Pumping Plant, Tampico District.

At the present time there are 320 registered petroleum companies in operation, though the actual production is confined to a few only. The table given in the foregoing shows the relative standing of the various companies as producers, though their potentiality is not given, that being more or less a problematical matter.

That there is a widespread misunderstanding regarding the production and use of Mexican petroleum is evidenced by many publications upon the subject. Some very interesting light is thrown upon the matter by the published hearings before the Senate Committee on Public Lands which were recently held and during which the oil and coal questions were discussed at length. From statements made before the committee it appears that it is a surprising fact that in both the English and the American navies the fuel specifications now in force *forbid the use of Mexican oil!* They distinctly provide that *"Mexican oil will not be accepted."* This prohibition was first made by the English navy, and was followed by that of the United States. The manner in which Mexican petroleum goes into use in the British navy is by having it shipped to the United States, where it goes into a common pool, after which it is shipped abroad and supplied to the navy as the "purely American product."

The fact was brought out that the potential production of the Mexican oil fields was in round numbers a million barrels daily, but that because of lack of transportation facilities the actual production was much less—less than a million barrels per week. Thus, the Huasteca Petroleum Company, with a potential capacity of 300,000 barrels daily (that is, with wells already driven and able to produce that amount, but shut down), is only producing 50,000 barrels, that being the amount that can be exported. "We are producing all we can move," said the manager of the company. This applies to other companies as well. There is no difficulty in getting the oil to the coast, as the wells are located at no great distance from shipping points, and all are provided with pipe lines, there being something like five hundred miles of such lines in the comparatively limited area in which are included the greater number of the producing wells of the Republic. Ocean transportation is the difficulty, and this is being met by the construction of oil-carrying steamers as rapidly as possible.

The extent of the misunderstanding regarding the oil question is well illustrated in a recent article in *World's Work* entitled "The

(*Continued on page* 10)

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

"Fourteen thousand Mexican miners work in the copper, silver and gold mines of Arizona. Over half of the membership of the Arizona State Federation of Labor—an integral and representative part of the American Federation of Labor—is either of Mexican blood or birth. In this State the wage-workers of the two sister Republics have come to a fraternal understanding which marks the beginning of the end of all future border wars. With the inevitable spread of this understanding throughout the labor movements of the United States of North America and the United States of Mexico, military aggression, interventions and conquests will become impossible, and to this end the convention at Clifton of the Arizona State Federation of Labor, during its second day's session, August 6, 1917, elected a committee of five to hold an international conference with representatives of the Sonora Workingmen's Congress of Mexico for the purpose of devising practical plans for mutual aid in industrial actions."

This statement was made by the secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee, John Murray, at a meeting of this international body held in the A. F. of L. Building, August 20th, presided over by Samuel Gompers. In the course of his report Secretary Murray explained how the last great strike in the Clifton-Morenci district, Arizona, had been won by the solidarity of the Mexican miners. He asserted that the I. W. W. movement had no hold on either the Mexican or American miner in Arizona or Mexico. It was due to the mine owners and their managers falsely proclaiming every labor organizer to be an "I. W. W. agitator" that caused the lawless bands of vigilantes, under the direct control of these same copper barons, to terrorize and deport every wage-worker not to their liking. Proof was given to the committee that the copper mine owners financed these vigilance committees, the same copper interests that operate in Cananea and New Mexico, as well as throughout Arizona.

The proposed international conference will probably be held in October, on alternate days, in the two towns touching each other on the border line, Douglas and Agua Prieta. Invitations are to be given to the Governors of Chihuahua, Sonora, Arizona and Texas to be present, as well as the members of the Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee, with its representatives from Porto Rico, Santiago Iglesias; Cuba, Antonio Correa Gonzalez; Yucatan, Carlos Loveira; Federated Syndicates of Mexico, Edmundo Martinez; and Cardenio Gonzalez, representing the Chilian labor movement.

As Mexico has to-day in her various labor organizations over half a million men and women, this international conference means not only the binding of labor ties across the border, but the beginning of an understanding between peoples of the Western Hemisphere guaranteeing a lasting peace.

ENROLMENT OF MEXICAN CITIZENS

An unfortunate condition of affairs, and one which promises serious embarrassment to industries requiring large supplies of labor, has been created by the enforced enrolment of Mexican citizens resident in the United States under the conscription law. Notwithstanding repeated assurances that it is not intended to draft them, so much apprehension has been caused that thousands have gone back into their own country and others are preparing to go. The American officials intrusted with the preparation of the lists have refused to accept the certificates of Mexican Consuls at various points in the United States that the bearers thereof are Mexican citizens, though it is difficult to understand what better proof can be given, and they have also refused to recognize the provisions of the Mexican Constitution that children born in a foreign country of Mexican parentage are themselves Mexican citizens and cannot lose their rights and responsibilities as such, as is the case with American children born in foreign countries of American parentage. As a result of this unfortunate condition, the Embassy in this city is overwhelmed with protests from Mexican citizens resident in the United States who are demanding the protection of their government. Their apprehension is increased by the reports of discussions in Congress regarding the advisability of including aliens in the conscription and sending them into active service.

The miners of the Southwest, the farmers of Texas and other States, employers of unskilled as well as skilled labor in that portion of the country west of the Mississippi, where the bulk of Mexican workers are to be found, as well as on the Pacific coast, numbering hundreds of thousands, find themselves threatened with a shortage of help for crop gathering and other purposes, owing to the constantly increasing exodus of Mexicans who are returning home in order to escape the operation of the laws now in operation or that may be passed governing conscription, and a very serious condition has already arisen, which promises to become still worse. The Mexican laborers are not so much the sufferers as their former employers, as the Government furnishes them transportation to any portion of Mexico where they may wish to go, and there is an urgent demand for labor in many sections, notably Yucatan, where the highest wages and shortest hours prevail of any portion of the Republic.

It has been hoped that some solution of this difficulty might be found which would be just to all concerned, but at present the condition is as noted.

MI MADRE MEXICO

By Gertrude M. Moran

There is a star shines o'er thee, Mexico;
'Tis not of War, but bodes ill for thy foe;
The Star of Justice and of Courtesy will save
From all barbarians and from progress' grave:
For in thy heart, as in thy land, there live,
The golden flowers only love can give.
Tho' drawn aside for just a little while
From your fine selves by enemies—you smile
Serenely. From Great God your blessings come,
Those who can appreciate, who envy none,
With minds so keen and clear, with souls of fire,
Welcome this course, and spurn the dire
Commercial heights, on lives of labor raised;
Pursue the former ideals of thy earlier days.
Raised to such eminence, thy southern friends and thee
Shall rule in kindness all the western sea.
Deign to accept from hands of former foe
This tribute to thyself, O Mother, Mexico!
None of all other lands may dare aspire
To greater progress; in the mire
Of greed and gold thy feet but once were caught.
Now, thou wilt conquer, doing what thou ought;
All men within thy land at liberty;
All fed with justice, kindness, love and courtesy.

Colton, Cal., July, 1917.

The Chamber of Deputies has under discussion a measure which declares that the present Government has no responsibility for any losses caused by the treason of Huerta or of Villa, but that the real property of the persons responsible for those acts shall be forfeited to the Government and the major portion of the proceeds therefrom shall be devoted to the compensation of those who suffered actual loss from the causes noted.

Pursuant to the plan of the Department of Fine Arts for the establishment of regional museums for the better preservation of the many archaeological and other objects of educational interest and value, such institutions have been opened in Guadalajara, Merida and Zacatecas, while preparations are being made for many others. Efforts will be made to prevent the exportation of such objects from the Republic, which is already contrary to law.

A special commission has been appointed by the Treasury Department for the purpose of investigating the various concessions granted by former regimes to the Pearson (Lord Cowdray) interests, including those for the Tehuantepec Railway, the ports of Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos, as well as for others in the States of Vera Cruz and Tamaulipas, in order to determine their legality and exact nature, concerning which there have been many conflicting reports.

Illustrated Talks on Mexico

Clubs, societies or organizations of any kind wishing to learn something of the truth about Mexico, through the medium of illustrated talks, can be accommodated by communicating with The Mexican Review, or with Mr. S. J. MacFarren, 711 Thirteenth street, N. W., this city. Mr. MacFarren has resided many years in Mexico and is familiar with the various features and peculiarities of that country. He is donating his services for the purpose of affording accurate information regarding a matter upon which the general public is woefully ignorant.

MARCH OF IMPROVEMENT

The Governor of the State of Aguascalientes is establishing schools in all the haciendas and most remote villages, in order to give the common people everywhere the means of education.

The aeroplane mail service from Mexico to Vera Cruz is expected to cover the distance in four hours; from Mexico to Queretaro in two hours and from Mexico to Pachuca in forty-five minutes.

A company has been organized which will commence the construction of automobiles. Monterrey, capital of Nuevo Leon, will be the location of the factory and it is believed it will prove successful.

Construction work has been commenced on the railway line connecting the ports of Tampico and Tuxpam, which will greatly assist in the development of the oil region of Vera Cruz and Tamaulipas.

A commission has arrived in Mexico City from Japan for the purpose of securing an adequate exhibit of the various products of the Republic for display in Tokio, where it is expected to greatly stimulate commerce between the two countries.

Official notice has been issued that after the fiscal year as observed in Government accounts and reports shall coincide with the calendar year, beginning January 1st and ending December 31st, instead of commencing July 1st and ending June 30th.

Commencing with September 15th the service of the Pullman cars was re-established on all lines throughout the Republic. Sleepers will be run directly from Mexico City to San Antonio, Texas, where they will be connected with the rapid train service from that point to St. Louis, Mo.

A careful investigation of the natural resources of the islands of Tres Marias, on the west coast of Mexico, develops that they are rich in hardwoods, lime, guano, pearl oysters and other resources of wealth awaiting exploitation. These islands are utilized as a penal settlement for incorrigibles.

A project has been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies by the Secretary of Communications and Public Works for the improvement of the port of San Blas, in the State of Nayarit, on the west coast. The project includes the construction of a commodious wharf and the dredging of the bar in order to permit deepwater vessels to land.

A film entitled "Patria Nueva" has been prepared and is now on exhibition in Mexico City showing the present condition of matters in the Republic. There are about two thousand meters (over six thousand feet) of the scenes and it is expected that they will be shown in foreign countries for the enlightenment of the public.

A special commission has been appointed by Secretary Pastor Rouaix of the Department of Fomento for the purpose of exploring the flora and fauna of the Territory of Lower California, and also of the States of Chiapas, Michoacan and Colima. A special investigation will be made of the submarine growths of the Pacific coast.

Under instruction of the Department of Communications two new wireless telegraph stations have been established in the oil district of the State of Vera Cruz, one at Tuxpam and the other at Puerto Lobos. These stations are for the purpose of supplementing the land wire system what time it is disturbed by natural or other conditions.

The repair and construction of highways between Mexico City and Tampico has reached such a stage that it is announced that regular automobile lines will soon be operated between those two important centers of population and commerce. At the present time communication is possible only by sea from Vera Cruz and by a very circuitous railway route via San Luis Potosi or Monterrey, requiring several days for the trip.

SMALL LAND HOLDINGS

ESPECIAL attention is being paid by the Department of Fomento to the enforcement of Article 27 of the new constitution, relating to the agrarian question which went into effect on May 1st. The Secretary of that department has given instructions that the preparation of the necessary laws to put this portion of the constitution into effect be completed as quickly as possible, in order to present the plan to Congress for approval and enactment.

The following instructions regarding small land holders have been issued by the department named: Those who desire lands are to be allowed to rent property belonging to the Government in order to cultivate and exploit the same. Those who are already in possession of lands of this character shall be allowed to continue holding them. Plots allotted to applicants shall not exceed 25 hectares (62½ acres) in size to each individual, in order to avoid land monopoly. No title to any of this property will be given to any applicant. This method of handling public lands will remain in effect until Congress adopts some definite plan in connection therewith.

Taken at Midnight by Light of Burning Tank.

Regarding the temporary prohibition of the exportation of certain food articles of prime necessity until such time as the growing crops are harvested, Sub-Secretary Nieto calls attention to the fact that this prohibition does not include coffee, garbanzos (a variety of field pea largely used in the United States and elsewhere), fresh or dried chile, fresh fruits, or, when previous permission is asked, cattle.

FOOL'S PARADISE

We all are gathered here, who else no refuge had;
We all are here, we Fools—the sad, the glad, the mad,
So counted by a world that missed us nevermore,
That fed us grudgingly—or starved us on its store.

They all are here—those darling truants from the rod
Who learned no lesson save the boundless love of God.
And they are here—the laughers whom their world frowned down,
Who danced to all the pipes that stray from town to town!

And moody ones are with us—souls of smoldering fire
That blew alive and caught at wrong in sudden ire;
And prophet-spirits mild who none would ever heed;
And childlike men of might that any child could lead.

And those that loved, unloved—who nothing else could do
But spend their all—O truest lovers of untrue!
And those that have gone mad for deathless beauty's sake,
Who winged her songful praise none later could awake!

We all are gathered here—the sad, the glad, the mad . . .
God made a Paradise for Fools and straight forbade
Its seraph-guarded gates to all His thriftier wise,
But He himself oft walks with us this Paradise.

L'ENVOI

Princes, or Peasants, this to you I send from far;
Whoe'er ye be, if so some little ancient scar
Ye bear in either palm, ye cannot be denied—
For you, with golden sound, the garden gates swing wide.

EDITH THOMAS.

Two army officers have invented a machine gun with double barrels, one for seven millimeter Mauser cartridges and the other for the ordinary 30-30 Winchester ammunition, but which is so light that it can be transported on the back of a single soldier. The capacity of each barrel is twenty shots per minute. The Government has ordered the construction of a number of the new weapons, the trials having proved successful.

A project is under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies for the imposition of an annual tax of one peso per hectare (twenty cents American gold per acre) upon all cultivable lands that are not utilized by the proprietors thereof. This will either necessitate largely increased cultivation and production of food crops, on the part of the owners, or the selling of the land to pay the taxes and its subsequent sale or allotment to those willing to cultivate it.

Owing to the increased value of silver bullion making the subsidiary coinage worth much more than its face, many efforts are being made to smuggle it across the border contrary to the law forbidding such practices. Some large seizures have been made—$30,000 in one case and $50,000 in another—all of which has been turned into the national treasury in accordance with the law.

General Alvaro Obregon is making a tour of the United States and is receiving a warm welcome in every city that he visits. Starting at Los Angeles, he will go to San Francisco, Ogden, Salt Lake, Omaha, St. Louis, Chicago, and other western points, subsequently coming to Washington, which he will reach during the latter part of October. From there he will go to New York and other Atlantic coast cities.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

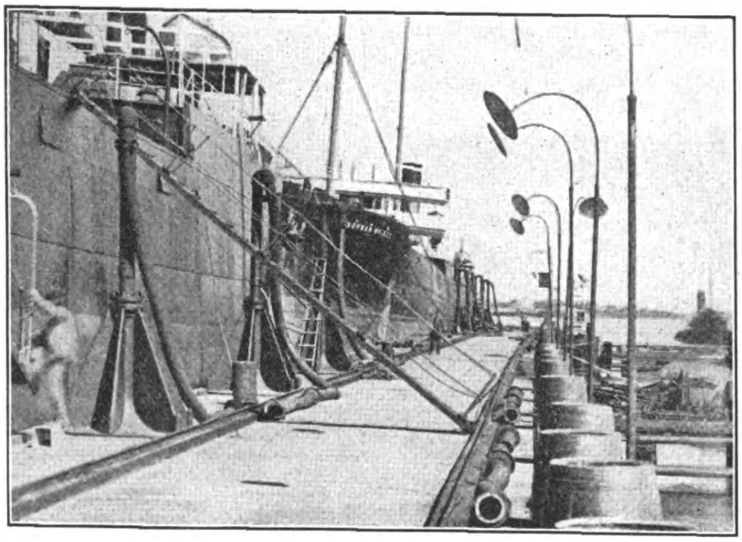
MEXICO'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

(*Continued from page 7*)

Jeopardy of Tampico." Two of the principal mistakes made therein are worthy of notice.

It is declared: "In June the companies were paying a net tax on fuel oil of *seventeen cents* American currency a barrel."

The decree which was in force during May and June distinctly provided that the tax should be at the rate of ten per cent ad valorem on all oil, which was graded in three classes, according to density, and ranged from $5 to $11 per ton—the values stipulated being $5, $8.50 and $11. The tax thus varied from 50 cents to $1.10 per ton Mexican money, or practically half that in American currency. Taking the proportions of the various grades of oil shipped, it is found that the tax is practically 8 cents per barrel instead of 17 cents as alleged.



Vessels Loading Oil at Tampico.

Much is also made of the so-called "nationalization" of oil under the new constitution, and it is declared that this means confiscation of the property of those owning land in the oil region.

The Constitution of Mexico very plainly and explicitly says, both in the old and the new documents:

"Art. 14.—No law shall be given retroactive effect to the prejudice of any person whatsoever."

The Constitution further provides:

"Art. 126.—This constitution and the laws of the United States of Mexico which shall be made in pursuance thereof . . . shall be the supreme law of the land."

Leading owners of oil lands have no fear whatever regarding the "nationalization" of petroleum. Furthermore, the Government is now making a careful survey of all public lands in the petroleum district with the view of drawing up a plan for the exploitation of the measures thereon under "nationalization." But the constitutional inhibition as to retroactive laws fully protects all land owners in whatever locality and under whatever condition.

Petroleum Discovery and Development

The Department of Fomento some time since dispatched Engineer Manuel Pasalagua to make a careful study of the State of Colima, with especial attention to its topography, undeveloped resources, etc. He recently reported to the Department that he had discovered petroleum deposits of great richness in the vicinity of the Hacienda de Santa Rosalia, the surface indications of seepages, etc., covering many square miles of territory, while the geological formations were similar to those of the developed petroleum regions elsewhere. It is announced that the Government will probably at once nationalize the lands containing this new oil deposit.

The total amount of oil exported from Tampico and Tuxpam in the first six months of 1917 was 22,140,876 barrels, or nearly nine million barrels more than for the same period in 1915. More than 75 per cent of the petroleum went to the United States, while South America took two million barrels and the same amount was consumed at home. During the same six months forty-two new wells were brought in. During the first four months of the present year the exportations amounted to 1,226,799 metric tons (2200 pounds) of crude oil, and 421,780 of refined. It is expected that the total production for the year will reach at least eight million metric tons, or approximately 56,000,000 barrels.

For several months, as previously announced, a careful study has been in progress of the entire petroleum industry in all its bearings, for the purpose of drafting a law that should govern the development of the nation's oil measures and that should be fair and equitable to all concerned. The representatives of the leading oil companies have been consulted in order that the matter might be fully understood. The law not yet being ready for submission to Congress, and as there have been notable discoveries of new fields, including those in Lower California and in the State of Colima, noted above, notice has been given that no concessions will be granted except where they relate to lands already recognized as actually petroleum bearing. The requests that have been made for permission to exploit the recently discovered but not accurately delineated oil lands in Lower California have therefore been refused until the proper investigations shall have been made.

Federal Zone in the Petroleum Region

Instructions have been issued for the immediate survey of all lands coming under the designation of "the Federal zone" in the petroleum regions of the Republic. Their boundaries are to be accurately delineated and marked with permanent monuments of masonry. This zone consists of a belt of land along all navigable streams ten meters (32 4/5 feet) in width and on tidewater frontage of 20 meters (65 feet) from high-water mark.

Coming down from the time of the conquest, under the old Spanish law these zones were set apart as the exclusive property of the Government and *absolutely inalienable* in any manner or for any consideration. Permission could be granted for the use of these lands for long terms upon application and the payment of proper license fees therefor, and this was frequently done. In the oil region, wharves, pipe lines and other necessary appliances for the proper conduct of the petroleum industry have of necessity been frequently located upon the Federal zone, and in most cases this has been done after application has been made and permission granted, with the accompanying payment of adequate license fees for the privilege. But because of the lack of definitely surveyed and marked boundaries, people have entered upon the zone and made use thereof without such permission and without making any return to the Government for the privilege.

The purpose of the order for delineating and marking the boundaries in permanent and correct form is that those who are thus making use of the public lands shall be required to make compensation for the privilege, in the same manner as those who have been legally granted permission, and in order that there shall be no further grounds for question as to the exact limits of the national property. In some cases oil wells have been sunk upon the zone without permission having first been secured, but this will all now be regulated.

Oil Taxes and Shipments

Under an official circular issued by Sub-Secretary Rafael Nieto, of the Treasury Department, dated August 14, 1914, the oil tax for the months of July and August was continued at the same rate as for the months of May and June, namely:

The valuation of petroleum of a density of 0.97, $5 per ton.

The valuation of combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, $8.50 per ton.

The valuation of crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, $11 per ton.

Gas oil, $8.50 per ton.

The rate of taxation on gasoline is 6 per cent ad valorem on the crude and 3 per cent ad valorem on refined.

The Secretary of the Treasury also furnishes some interesting information regarding the exportation of oil and its products from the Tampico district and of the revenue derived therefrom by the Government.

There were exported during the months of March and April from the port of Tampico

946,000 metric tons of petroleum and its derivates, the duties on the exportations amounting to 557,000 pesos, or in the neighborhood of $280,000 American gold. From Tuxpam in the same period there were sent 446,000 tons of petroleum products which paid a duty of 257,000 pesos, or about $138,000 American gold, and from the port of Mexico, on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, there was shipped 556 tons, which paid 334 pesos duty, or about $165 American gold.

During the months of May and June, Tampico exported 809,000 tons, and under the new tariff the Government collected 994,000 pesos, or approximately half that amount in American gold. From Tuxpam there went in the two months mentioned 295,000 tons, on which 318,000 pesos, or $159,000 gold, duty was collected. The port of Mexico exported 20,000 tons, collecting 51,000 pesos duty. The receipts of the Government have been increased more than 600,000 pesos, or $300,000, by the application of the new tariff since May 1st.

Rich Oil Zone on the Island of Angel de la Guarda

Recently General Jesus M. Garza informed Engineer Alberto J. Pani, who is in charge of the Department of Industry and Commerce, that lately there was discovered on the Island of "Angel de la Guarda," in the Gulf of California, a very rich petroleum zone, which, as soon as it is exploited, would produce greater quantities of oil than in any other part of the country.

The Commission of Engineers sent by the State of Sonora in order to explore the Island Angel de la Guarda and the coasts of Lower California, with a view to determine whether there really were indications of oil, has just submitted a report to the effect that they do exist, and that they are very rich, and they urge that exploitation be undertaken.

While making their explorations, the said Commission of Engineers at once found "chapopote" at some places, by which they determined the existence of petroleum measures on said island.

Studies that were made afterwards of these oil indications showed that, once they are exploited, they would render a very considerable yield, which at once gave birth to the thought of their exploitation.

The aforementioned General Jesus M. Garza, with Messrs. Francisco Martinez, Manuel Otalora and Gustavo Muñoz, are the ones who have obtained the permit to exploit the very rich indications of oil which are referred to, and already they have proceeded to organize an important company in order to obtain the necessary funds with which to begin the preliminary works of exploration.

Also, on the coast, near the aforementioned Island of Angel de la Guarda, have been found other oil indications, of which the Department of Industry and Commerce has been informed.

The oil region located between the Island of Angel de la Guarda and the nearby coasts is considered much richer than those of Tuxpam and Tampico, and it is believed that its production would be far greater than that of the other two put together.

Petroleum Companies Resume Dividends

The feeling of security and confidence in the present Government of Mexico by prominent American concerns engaged in business there is demonstrated by the resumption on the part of the Mexican Petroleum Company, Ltd., of Delaware, of dividends on its common stock at the rate of 6 per cent per annum, which dividend was suspended in August, 1913, on account of the conditions then prevailing in the Republic.

The Pan-American Petroleum and Transport Company, another extensive American concern also operating in Mexico, and a large part of whose revenues is obtained from its holdings of stock in the Mexican Petroleum Company, Ltd., as well as from its earnings from its tank steamers transporting oil to American ports, has likewise demonstrated its confidence in the Carranza government in a similar manner. The Pan-American Company has declared a quarterly dividend at the rate of 7 per cent per annum.

No action on the part of American organizations doing business in Mexico speaks more positively of the growing feeling of security which foreign capitalists have in the stability and fairness of the Mexican Government than this renewal of dividends on the part of the companies mentioned, leading as they do in the petroleum industry.

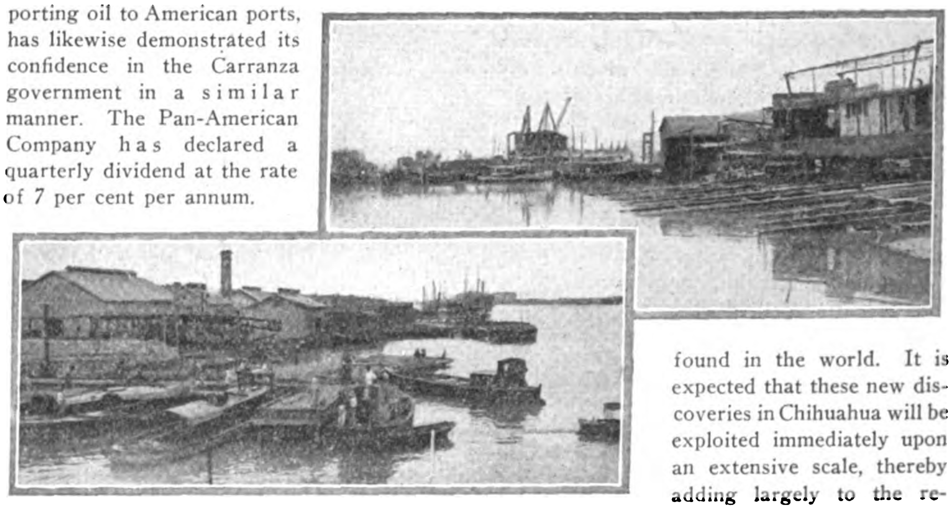
This resumption of dividends by two of the most prominent companies engaged in this important enterprise is sufficient and convincing answer to the allegations which have been given wide circulation and credence that the petroleum industry was being hampered or that foreign capital was being deterred from engaging in this or other lines of business.

During *all the disorders* in Mexico the Mexican Petroleum Company and the Huasteca Petroleum Company *have continued at work uninterruptedly*. During trying and critical times they have given continuous employment to a minimum of 3000 Mexican employes and laborers. These companies have *experienced no strikes*. On the contrary, all strikes in the Tampico district have been settled by the companies subjected to them, finally paying their help the same rates as voluntarily established by the two concerns that have just declared the dividends noted.

During the month of August the custom house at Vera Cruz collected nearly two million dollars national gold in duties and turned it in to the National Treasury.

Discovery of Paraffine

Announcement is made that the first discovery of a deposit of paraffine on this continent has been made in the State of Chihuahua, not far from the American boundary line. The bed has been traced for ten kilometers in extent and analyses of samples show 93 per cent of the pure mineral. Petroleum with a paraffine base has also been discovered in the same region. The greater portion of the oil produced in California, the Southwestern portion of the United States, and also in Mexico, has an asphalt base. It is that with a paraffine base that produces the best illuminating fluid. The oil found in Tabasco, which is not being exploited to any extent, also has a paraffine base and is said by experts to be the best found in the world. It is expected that these new discoveries in Chihuahua will be exploited immediately upon an extensive scale, thereby adding largely to the resources of the Republic.



Boat Building by Mexican Mechanics.

Increased Exportation of Oil

The Secretary of the Treasury announces that the exportations of petroleum for the months of August and September, the complete returns of which have not yet been secured, will exceed those for June and July, which amounted to upward of two million tons. Notwithstanding the increase in the export tax on oil, the foreign demand is constantly increasing and the receipts therefrom by the Government correspondingly augmented. It is believed that the complete returns of the exportations for August and September will approximate three million tons, the duties upon which will augment the metallic reserves in the National Treasury by a large amount.

Privileges Forfeited

All oil companies are obliged to pay a monthly tax of $150 Mexican coin, or $75 American—an insignificant amount when the importance of the business is taken into consideration. However, some of the companies that were organized in order to sell shares rather than to engage in legitimate exploitation of the oil measures, have refused or neglected to pay this tax, and for that reason the Minister of Industry and Commerce has applied to them the penalty prescribed by law, and has directed their withdrawal from the Registry of Oil Companies, which leaves them without legal standing, and without the power

(*Concluded on page* 13)

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

IV

THE CRIMEAN WAR AND THE MEXICAN PLAZA

> "Half a league, half a league, half a league onward,
> Into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell,
> Rode the Six Hundred!"

Who among us who was a schoolboy fifty years and more ago is there who did not on a Friday afternoon, when the hated and much-dreaded hour for "speaking pieces" came around, recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade"? How we rolled it out! What a pleasure it was to be able to utter in public and under the cold official eye a word which, when used privately and in strictly personal matters and discussions, brought condign punishment if overheard by our elders or those in authority. How we did love to be able to talk from the platform about people going to hell, while if we did the same kind of talking, only *not* in poetical fashion, on the playground, we were so sure to catch something of the same kind. Why, it was almost as good as being a minister and being able to talk about hell-fire and damnation right out in public!

We began our youthful "piece speaking" with:

> "Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
> How I wonder what you are."

Or:

> "You'd scarce expect one of my age
> To speak in public on the stage,"

Or with:

> "How big was Alexander, pa,
> That people called him great?"

From that we progressed to:

> "The breaking waves dashed high
> On a stern and rock-bound coast."

Then came:

> "The boy stood on the burning deck
> Whence all but he had fled."

And lost his life because he had not good, plain common sense enough to know that his father must surely have perished and would have wished him to leave the burning vessel with the others. In duty bound, of course, we had to publicly admire the devotion of the lad in waiting for orders from his dead parent, and incidentally waiting to be blown to smithereens when all had sought safety elsewhere. Away down in our own hearts we thought he was a bit of a prig, and we could not see anything very noble in throwing one's life away in that manner. Far better to have gone with the others and lived to fight another day. It seemed to us that that would have been the better way to have rendered service to one's country. Anyhow, we did not believe the story. There never was such a boy! There couldn't be, except in Sunday School books!

A great favorite, too, was "Excelsior"! How the teacher did struggle with us while we sing-songed our way through:

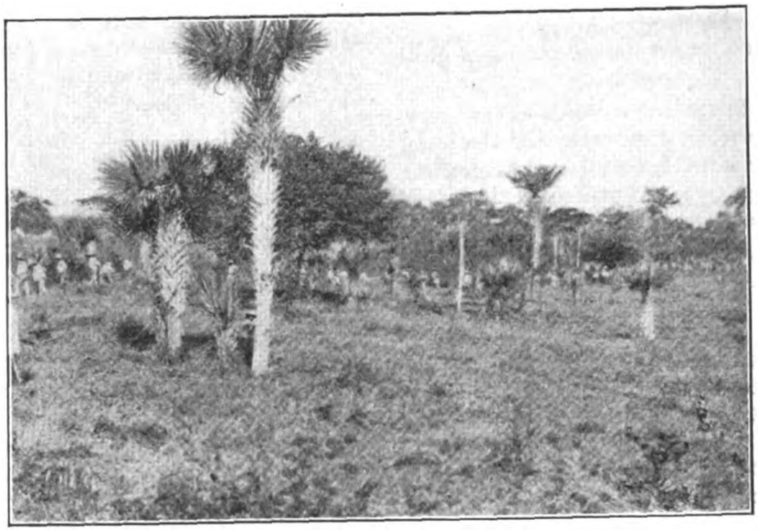
> "The shades of night were falling fast
> As through an Alpine village passed," etc.

And tried to make us give the proper emphasis to each "Excelsior" at the end of a stanza.

Then, too, there was the famous "Marco Bozzaris," of the Greek revolution, and its ringing:

> "Strike till the last armed foe expires!
> Strike for your altars and your fires!
> Strike for the green graves of your sires,
> God and your native land!"

My, how we did love to bring out those last four lines! How we did shout them and thrash the air with our arms and our imaginary swords, and waste no pity on the Turk who at midnight slept in his guarded tent and never dreamed what we were doing to him!



Clearing the Jungle in Oil Fields

Then came the Civil War and its accompanying flood of martial "poetry" and otherwise. We told on the school platform all about the fight between the *Monitor* and the *Merrimac*. We told how:

> "At anchor in Hampton Roads we lay
> On board of the *Cumberland* sloop of war."

And how:

> "Then like a kraken, huge and black,
> She crushed our ribs in her iron grasp."

We hadn't the faintest idea what a "kraken" was, but it was a fine-sounding word and we could make the little ones fairly goggle-eyed with our fierceness.

And then came dear old Barbara Frietchie! We had it early and we had it bad in our little old New Jersey school! And to this day, considerably more than fifty years later, I can recite every word of it, from

> "Up from the meadows rich with corn,
> Clear in the cool September morn,"

Clear down to:

> "And ever the stars above look down
> On thy stars below at Frederick Town."

But what has all this to do with the shady reserved seat of "El Gringo" under the chinaberry tree in a far-off and lonely Mexican village?

It is a far cry from the bloody battlefields of Sebastopol and Inkermann and Balaklava and Alma to quiet, peaceful little Cuatro Cienegas. It is a long distance chronologically from the stirring events of the Crimean war in the early fifties down to the tenth year of the twentieth century! Over three score years have passed and what possible connection can there be?

We shall see!

I am sitting in my favorite shaded nook, my friend and instructor in things Mexican (Don Martin) by my side. We are idly watching the people passing in and out of the hotel on the corner, half a block away. A stranger (to me) emerges and comes toward us. He is a spare, upstanding man, with snow-white hair and mustache, face finely wrinkled and tanned by the desert sun till it is a deep umber, but withal he strikes out briskly despite the heat, and carries himself like a soldier—which, indeed, he is, or rather was.

As he approaches, Don Martin says: "Here comes a man whom you have often told me you would like to meet. He lives in Ocampo, away out on the desert, and he is the owner of those decorations which are in my safe and which I showed you when you first came here. I will introduce you."

We arise as he comes nearer, and the introduction is given. I shake hands with the stranger.

He is Alphonse Martellet, sergeant of the fifth battalion of the Forty-third Regiment of the line, veteran of the Crimean war, veteran under Marshal Bazaine during the French invasion of Mexico, proud owner of the Victoria Cross and the decoration of the Legion of Honor. And withal as quiet and unassuming a man as one could ever meet. Born in San Lorenzo, on the Gran Riviere, in the province of Jura, he entered the army early in life and did not leave it until the end of the French occupation of this country.

Greetings having been exchanged, we sit down and Sergeant Martellet tells us about the Crimean war. He was in all the bloody engagements of the campaign. He saw the charge of the Light Brigade. He was with a battery on one of the hills commanding the valley down which the gallant Six Hundred rode to their death, and he shakes his head as he tells of the rashness, the needlessness, the folly of it all—all the result of a misunderstanding between two officers who were too proud to waste time in explanation. It is ancient history, but how interesting and thrilling from an eye-witness!

Finally I turn the conversation to the two notable decorations.

"Sergeant," I say, with more or less diffidence, "Don Martin has shown me the decorations belonging to you which he has in safekeeping. Will you pardon me if I ask you to tell us why they were given you? It surely must have been for some act of bravery much out of the ordinary. Will you not tell us the story?"

The Sergeant gave me a lightning glance. He drew himself up, clicked his heels together, saluted, and said:

"They were given me for doing my duty, sir!"

And no amount of persuasion could prevail upon him to give the slightest hint whatever of what must have been some extraordinarily gallant act.

As has been said, Sergeant Martellet was in Bazaine's army and his term of service expired before Napoleon III withdrew his troops, after having received a gentle hint from the Washington Government that their continued presence on American soil was not regarded with favor by the United States. Martellet had seen so much of the country that he had become enamored of it—or rather of one of its fair daughters, for his wife, a Mexican, must have been a very handsome woman in her younger days, as one can see readily enough. So he remained, and settled down in the little village of Ocampo, away out in the desert, and lived there many, many years. When I met him he was 93 years of age, but was as active as many a man 30 or 40 years his junior. I begged him for a photograph, but he had never had one taken, and as there was no photographer in town and my own camera was out of commission, I was obliged to be disappointed.

But we drank a copita together of the best French brandy to be obtained. I told him it was one of the greatest honors I had ever enjoyed, and with a warm grasp of the hand, another military salute and a few words of compliment, he went off down the street en route to his desert home.

But think of it! From Balaklava to Cuatro Cienegas! From 1854 in the Crimea to 1910 on the Coahuila desert!

A project has been inaugurated in the State of Hidalgo for the establishment of schools wherein soldiers now kept in garrison may be given the rudiments of an education.

The permanent commission appointed by the Commercial Congress recently held in Mexico City has under consideration the establishment of commercial schools in all portions of the Republic.

The new labor law which has been drawn up in accordance with Article 123 of the new Constitution consists of 150 separate provisions and will be submitted to Congress in a short time.

A commission has been dispatched to the southern limits of the Republic for the purpose of surveying and marking in permanent manner the boundaries between Mexico and the English possession of Belice.

MEXICO'S PETROLEUM INDUSTRY

(*Concluded from page* 11)

to undertake any transactions, either financial or questions arising before the Government.

Oil Exportation

It is again appropriate to point out that there is no limitation whatever to the export of oil from Mexico, nor can there be, contrary to reports of an opposite character. The only limit is the availability of vessels for transportation. There are now in storage many millions of barrels awaiting shipment. There is no German influence in the oil fields. Ninety-nine per cent of the production and shipment are under American and English control solely, and these are shipping all that they can handle, having in reserve immense stocks, while their potential and immediately available production is incalculable.

They have some enormous wells, for example the Cerro Azul, with a potential capacity of over 260,000 barrels daily, being the largest in the world and the property of an American company. Only about ten per cent of this immense flow is utilized at present. The Aguila Company (Lord Cowdray's) has several wells in the same condition. That the full potential production of wells already in existence is not utilized is not the fault of the Mexican Government, which has the greatest interest in developing the exportation, as shown by its acts in improving the port of Tampico in order to enable vessels of the largest size to take on cargoes of oil, which they are doing to-day. The lack of facilities for the exportation of the potential production constitutes a serious loss for the Government in the great value of the imposts which would be collected otherwise.

Frontispiece and Other Illustrations

The frontispiece, showing views of natural oil springs in the Tampico region, is of peculiar interest and is unique. These are natural exudations of liquid oil and the bubbles are constantly forming and collapsing as shown. The small black spots shown on the bubbles in the lower left-hand corner are reflections of the photographer and his camera, as may be seen with a powerful magnifying glass.

THE REVIEW is indebted to the courtesy of the Huasteca Petroleum Company for these photographs, the most interesting of which appear for the first time.

Denial of German Propaganda

One of the leading newspapers of Mexico City, *El Excelsior*, denies emphatically recent reports telegraphed from that city regarding German propaganda. It does this under the caption, "False Report of an American Newspaper Correspondent. His Communication to His Paper That Four German Officials Had Arrived in Mexico City is Not True. Nor is it true that these would dedicate themselves to pro-German propaganda, which they would not be allowed to do."

The article is as follows:

"A correspondent of a New York daily, who resides in this capital, sent a message to the publication that he represents, saying that a certain number of German officials had arrived here for the purpose of engaging in pro-German propaganda and to work in behalf of the government of the Teutonic empire.

"For this reason we interviewed yesterday a high official of the Government, who told us that the news was absolutely false, for such officials had not arrived in Mexico City, and that still less they would not be allowed to engage in any propaganda of the kind alleged by the correspondent.

"The police of the metropolis is well informed as to all persons who enter the country, as the greatest vigilance is being exercised at all the ports and frontier cities, and when a suspicious individual enters the country the fact is immediately communicated to this capital.

"As great importance has been attached to this news (which was sent by an American correspondent) in the United States, the necessary steps have already been taken for categorically denying it.

"The official whom we interviewed stated that the rumor was only a 'yellow canard,' worthy of the repudiation of sensible people. From the moment when the Government of the Republic ordered on various occasions that the most strict neutrality must be observed in the world war, it is absurd to think that Teutonic agents in Mexico would be allowed to engage in propaganda on behalf of Germany."

LATEST NEWS ITEMS

The School of Aviation in Mexico City, under the direction of Colonel Alberto Salinas, has recently completed the construction of fifty aeroplanes, and work has now been commenced on a second series of machines of different type from the first ones.

The railroad between Torreon and Saltillo, in the State of Coahuila, has been placed in first-class condition, bridges rebuilt, and other repairs made, and is now in regular operation. This road suffered severely during the Revolution, as it was the center of military operations for an extended period.

A commission of engineers has been appointed to undertake the rehabilitation of the extensive paper factory at San Rafael, near Mexico City, in order to supply the numerous periodicals in the Republic with paper at moderate prices. At present the cost is much higher than in the United States.

A project is under way for the acquisition by the Department of Fine Arts of the notable palace of Cortez, situated at Coyoacan, one of the suburbs of Mexico City, and which for years has been used as the offices of the town authorities. It is proposed to devote it to archaeological purposes.

Official reports from the State of Durango are to the effect that a large portion of the mines have been reopened, that agricultural and industrial conditions generally have greatly improved, the railroads are being operated regularly, and in general normal status prevails.

Some time since, under instructions of the President, requests were sent to the officials throughout the Republic that they report the condition of the corn crop. These reports are now coming in and the Director-General of Agriculture announces that the production of that grain will be greater than for several years.

Popular Loan Subscription

Movement Spreading to All Portions of the Republic for Extending Financial Aid to the Government

THE movement recently inaugurated in the State of Michoacan for a popular subscription to the loans authorized by Congress has gathered great momentum and is rapidly spreading to all portions of the Republic. It seems to have struck the vein of patriotic enthusiasm that dominates the people of the country, and the plan having once been announced and presented to the public, it is spreading like wild fire. President Carranza is in daily receipt of messages from individuals and organizations of all classes pledging their support. Military and civil employes of the national government have promised to contribute, while railroad, mining, agricultural and other workers have joined in the popular movement. Officials and employes of State Governments have also notified the national authorities of their desire to take part in the patriotic subscription.

On September 12th a convention was held in Mexico City, called by Governor Caesar Lopez de Lara of the Federal District, which was largely attended and at which a committee was appointed to take charge of the matter and push it vigorously. Representatives of the various labor, commercial and civil organizations were present and all testified to the desire of those for whom they were the spokesmen to aid in the rehabilitation of their country's finances.

The initial subscription is specifically for the purpose of covering the loan of $100,000,000 national gold ($50,000,000 American money) authorized for the purpose of establishing a bank which shall have sole power to issue paper currency and which shall at all times be redeemable in coin upon demand.

The Governors of several of the States have already signified their intention to assist in the movement, and it is believed that all will join therein. The national convention of railway employes, in session in Mexico City, has unanimously notified President Carranza that it will at once commence a canvass of all railway workers throughout the Republic for the purpose of enlisting their services in the cause.

As heretofore stated, the plan is for every person who is willing to pledge a contribution of one day's pay for each month having thirty days and two days' pay for those having thirty-one days until the required amount shall have been reached. It is an outright gift, and no suggestion has yet been made of the issuance to the contributors of bonds covering the amounts so given.

President Carranza and his cabinet have set the example of donating the same proportion of their salaries toward the desired object, and the members of Congress have also joined in the movement and pledged contributions of one and two days' salary monthly.

The newspaper reports that have been widely published regarding the loans all betray the same misconception regarding the difference between Mexican and American money. Without exception these reports state that the Mexican government is seeking to float a loan of $250,000,000, the inference of course being that this means American gold.

The fact is that Congress at first authorized two loans, one for 150,000,000 pesos and one for 100,000,000—250,000,000 pesos in all, which at the usual rate of exchange means $125,000,000 American gold, or exactly half the amount as given in the published statements. Subsequently Congress authorized another loan of $50,000,000, thus adding $25,000,000 American gold to the former, making a total of $150,000,000 American gold. When it is considered that this means a per capita of less than $10 American gold to the population of Mexico (variously estimated at from 15,000,000 to 17,000,000), while the first Liberty Loan floated in this country recently was subscribed to the extent of $30 per capita and additional loans now asked will bring it to over $100, it can readily be seen that there is nothing very excessive about the modest loan authorized. And none of these loans is to meet current expenses, which by the way are rapidly nearing the income and reducing the deficit from month to month. The one for 150,000,000 pesos is for the purpose of meeting outstanding obligations, such as overdue interest on the public debt; the one for 100,000,000 pesos is for the establishment of a bank of issue with sole power to circulate notes redeemable on demand in coin, while the one for 50,000,000 pesos is for the rehabilitation of the railroads and placing them in the same condition as before the revolution.

When one considers the hundreds of millions, the billions, which the world is now dealing in, and which are being raised by taxation and by bonds, it may well be claimed that the amount asked by Mexico for her rehabilitation is but a trifle by comparison.

The experience of the Government in the retirement of the paper currency is a demonstration of the willingness and ability of the people to assist in this direction. Many millions of dollars were freely donated outright by all classes to be burned, while gifts of jewelry and other valuables were also made for the same purpose, thus materially aiding in settling the national currency problem. There was no question of reimbursing these donations. They were downright gifts to the nation.

It is believed that if the bonds were offered to the common people as were the liberty bonds in the United States, in small denominations, many millions would be subscribed by those who have hoards of money, just as was the case in France when the German indemnity of 1870 was met by the people. That there is far more coin in the country than is generally supposed was demonstrated at the beginning of the present year, when specie payments were resumed without an effort. The amount needed is so comparatively small and the resources of the country so great, that there is warrant for believing that the people themselves will shoulder the burden of the needed loan for rehabilitating the country's finances.

Regarding the income of the Government, it is pointed out officially that it is constantly increasing and the deficit decreasing in proportion. The income from stamp taxes, which in 1912-13 was $38,000,000 annually, or about one-third the total income of the government, will this year be approximately $68,000,000. The new taxes on mines, petroleum, alcoholic liquors, cigars, etc., add largely to the income of the national treasury, and it is declared with assurance based on present facts that the deficiency will be entirely canceled within a brief period by the receipts from taxation.

NOTE—It should always be borne in mind in dealing with Mexican financial matters in news and especially in official dispatches that unless expressly stipulated to the contrary all sums of money mean Mexican coin, which at par is practically half the same amount as expressed in American money.

NOTES OF INTEREST

A popular subscription is to be opened in all portions of the Republic for the construction of a modern building for the use of the Mexican Red Cross Society, an independent organization which did a vast amount of excellent service during the Revolution and is continuing its task permanently.

A special military corps for the protection of railway traffic is being organized under the management of Colonel Paulino Fontes, the General Manager of the Constitutionalist lines. This corps will be distinct from the regular army and will perform the duties in the direction noted that have heretofore fallen to the troops.

Because of the damage done to the fishing interests of the municipality of Tuxpam, Vera Cruz, a tax of three and one-half cents per ton Mexican gold has been levied upon each ton of petroleum exported from the port named. This equals one and three-quarter cents American currency. The tax is to continue for one year.

With the approach of the winter season the National Health Board is prosecuting with vigor the measures necessary to prevent a recurrence of typhus and other diseases. Public baths and wash-houses have been established and cleanliness is being enforced in every manner possible. Sanitary stations are to be established at the frontier ports where passenger traffic is the largest.

The East Coast Oil Company has received permission to continue the sinking of a well at Potrero del Zacate, State of Vera Cruz; the "Pen-Mex. Fuel Company" has been granted permission to sink a well at Panuco, Vera Cruz; the Corona Petroleum Company has given notice that it has brought in a well at Tamboyoche, Vera Cruz, with a flow of 1000 cubic meters daily.

PRESIDENT CARRANZA'S ADDRESS

(Concluded from page 3)

June 20th, 1914 was in force, shows an increase in favor of the Treasury of 538.838.07 pesos for a single bi-monthly period.

"The law of May 19th last doubled the tax on tobacco.

"By the law of June 5th a special tax was levied on telephones; on the same day a special tax was also levied, payable in revenue stamps, on sealed bottles and on posters and advertising matter.

"On June 9th last, Articles 249, 250 and 251 of the law of June 1, 1906, were modified, and insofar as relates to Art. 251 the Federal Contribution tax was set at 60 per cent beginning with July 1st, last, the increase being made to include the Federal District and Territories.

"Sections 30 and 44 of the Stamp Tax Law of June 1st, 1906, as well as Art. 122 of the same act levying taxes of 2 per cent and 5 per cent, respectively, on bills of lading and on transporation by railroad, street-car, stage-coach or other conveyances, were amended under date of June 20th last. In the same month of June changes were introduced into the tariff rates on goods imported through the parcel post. A consumption tax of 10 per cent on electric light was levied, and a similar tax of 3 per cent on electric motor-power; the decree of June 5th of the present year was annulled. Beverages prepared from the juice of the agave plant known as 'pulque' were assessed 25 per cent on the wholesale price by law of June 27th last. The corresponding regulations have already been issued.

"The law of November 17th, 1893, was restored to full force and effect, and in accordance with Art. 22 of the regulations of this law, issued November 28th, 1893, the tax of 5 per cent on the total amount of the transaction is chargeable to the purchaser.

"Rates on gasoline and kerosene were modified as follows: refined gasoline and kerosene 3 per cent valorem; in a crude condition 6 per cent.

"On July 19th there was assessed a special stamp tax of 5 per thousand on capitals administered by such private charitable institutions as are authorized by the Law of August 23, 1904.

"The following matters have also been under consideration: Advisability of bettering the condition of customs agents; tax collection by the District authorities; the incorporation of the Internal Revenue Bureau into the Government of the Federal District; the advisability of levying taxes similar to those in force in the United States. In addition, a study is being made of income and profits legislation. Circular No. 213 was issued instructing Mexican Consuls to charge a fee for certificates issued to Mexican citizens."

Other Matters of Interest

The assistance given to those citizens desiring to repatriate themselves was referred to, as also the measures taken to relieve the scarcity of grain in some portions of the Republic.

The operations of the Treasury Department were given, with the various steps that have been taken for the rehabilitation of the nation's finances, as well as the work performed by the public mint. From May 1st to August 15th there were coined $14,035,000 in gold pieces and $7,600,000 in silver. In June and July there were coined $7,700,000 in gold and $7,600,000 in silver. The coinage noted is the largest in the history of the Republic.

The deposits with the Monetary Commission on account of former paper emissions amounted to $53,846,495.65, of which sum there has been disbursed in gold certificates $40,253,491.76, leaving a balance in favor of the depositors of $13,593,003.89.

Of paper currency issued $547,471,000 has been burned.

The Commission charged with the regulation of institutions of credit and the liquidation of the banks of issue reports that there were 22 such banks and that their condition was as follows:

Metallic reserve	$41,628,121.70
Bills in circulation	183,201,463.25
Sight deposits	18,315,412.78
Other deposits	32,698,686.14

On June 14th these banks had in their possession:

Dollars (at 2 to 1)	$3,619,534.32
National gold	2,297,840.00
Pesos coins	13,102,869.00
National coin	721,023.57
Gold and silver bars	4,818,459.76
TOTAL	$24,559,726.65

Among other acts of the Government noted by the President was the appointment of a commission to investigate the various contracts made with the Pearsons and the Tehuantepec Railway.

The progress made in the reorganization of the army was described, together with the establishment of a Legion of Honor, of the academy of the general staff, the manufacture of arms, ammunition and equipment, etc.

The progress made by the School of Aviation was noted, as well as that of the Sanitary Service and the military tribunals.

The operations of the forces against various bands of rebels are referred to, with the necessary objects achieved, especially in Chihuahua, where General Murguia is credited with the restoration of complete order.

The work of the Department of Fomento is described at length, including the return to the public domain of extensive areas in Lower California and elsewhere which had been illegally granted to various persons who had not complied with the terms of their concessions. A total of 13,280,000 hectares (nearly 36,000,000 acres) has thus been added to the public domain. Many other cases are under consideration where concessionaires have failed to comply with their agreements.

The establishment of colonies on various of the Pacific Coast islands is referred to, as well as in other portions of the Republic.

Various projects of irrigation are being studied by the Department of Fomento for the utilization of the waters that belong to the people.

The establishment of meteorological stations, the surveys of various boundaries and other works of similar character are referred to, together with the work undertaken by the Bureau of Archaeology.

The work of the Department of Industry, and Commerce is described, including the establishment of an electro-chemical laboratory, projects for the inauguration of expositions of the products of the country at the various consulates in foreign lands, etc.

The efforts of the National University and of the Department of Fine Arts are recited, with the general impulse that has been given to all branches of education and culture.

The Department of Communications, among other important projects has undertaken the construction and repair of highways throughout the Republic, the building of various railways needed for the better development of the resources of the country, the construction of port works at various points, the inauguration of wireless telegraphic stations, the increase in the service of the land wire system, and many other improvements of great value to the country.

Public health has received adequate attention and laws are being prepared for the better conservation of health and morals as well, the question of the regulation of the production and sale of alcoholic beverages receiving especial attention.

The address was a complete summary of the present condition of the Republic, which lack of space prevents publishing in full.

JOTTINGS

The National Treasury has received one million dollars in American gold coin collected as duties in the city of Monterrey, which was sent to the mint and recoined in Mexican five, ten and twenty peso pieces.

Because of the large amounts of gold that are being sent to the national mint for coinage, it has been found necessary to limit the coinage of silver until the surplus shall have been treated.

The Workingmen's Congress recently held in Vera Cruz petitioned the Government for the immediate establishment of arbitration boards for the settlement of labor disputes and for other measures designed to carry out the provisions of the new Constitution.

Agricultural colonies have been established at Santa Ana, Santa Maria, El Coyotillo, La Arituaba and other points in the State of Sonora, and hundreds of former miners and their families are now busy establishing homes and cultivating the soil.

Operations in paper currency except the "infalsificable" have been forbidden under penalty, those holding such currency being required to turn it in for redemption under the regulations issued by the Government therefor in 1916.

Every newspaper received from Mexico City carries accounts of the restoration of community lands or of the allotment of tracts of varying size for the establishment of new pueblos where the lands are to be held in common.

LATE NEWS NOTES

The Light and Power Company of the State of Puebla has been authorized to construct an electric railway line connecting the cities of Puebla and Tlaxcala.

The Department of Fomento is considering a petition for the establishment of a refinery at Tampico which will be of great benefit to the many oil companies operating there.

While cleaning out a well at the port of Progreso, Yucatan, recently petroleum was found seeping into it and it is believed that valuable deposits will be found by proper exploitation.

The collections of customs for the first two weeks in September at the port of Vera Cruz were so heavy as to warrant the belief that the total for the month would be over two million dollars.

In the month of August thirty-five new mining titles were granted by the Department of Industry and Commerce, while forty-three concessions were forfeited for failure to comply with the mining laws.

Labor congresses have been held recently in several of the States of the Republic and measures discussed for the amelioration of the condition of working men in accordance with the provisions of the new constitution.

Reports have been received in Mexico City from the State of Sonora that large numbers of Americans are arriving in that section who are apparently seeking to avoid service in the army. They are said to be well provided with money as a rule.

Announcement is made in the press of the capital city of the advent of many representatives of American business houses who are seeking opportunities for investment and for the development of various natural resources which promise to be of a profitable nature.

Two mechanics in the employ of the electric railway system of the national capital have recently received rewards of $4000 and $1000 each for having invented a novel and very useful device for the pr[illegible]tion of wiring for the magnets used in [illegible]eration of cars.

A tax of 40 per cent [illegible] pulque has been approved by the Chambe[illegible] Deputies for the purpose of discouraging [illegible]affic in that injurious beverage, and inducing the producers to make other uses of the plant from which it is produced, such as the extraction of fiber, the manufacture of sugar, etc.

The commission appointed to survey the route for a railway connecting the cities of Guadalajara and San Luis Potosi reports that it has completed its labors and that the line will involve an expenditure of $19,000,000. It will open up a region very rich in mining, agriculture and natural resources of various kinds.

The Department of the Exterior is in constant receipt of renunciations filed by Americans and other foreigners, in accordance with the new Constitution, that for the purposes of the immediate business specified they will not undertake to appeal to their home governments against the operation of the laws of Mexico in connection therewith.

Improvements projected at the port of Mazatlan, the most important on the Pacific coast, under direction of the Department of Communications and Public Works, include a series of parallel wharves, of breakwaters, and the dredging of a channel for deep-water vessels, thus providing a thoroughly protected location for vessels against severe storms.

The Treasury Department has requested that the necessary steps be taken to expel from the country or prevent the entry of all foreigners who are found smuggling or attempting to smuggle articles of any kind whatsoever. There has been much trouble along the border recently on this account and drastic measures are necessary to stop it.

It is proposed to organize a company upon the same lines as the one that so successfully handles the fiber product of the State of Yucatan, for the purpose of developing the banana business in Tabasco. The growers realize the need of co-operation in handling and marketing the product and steps are being taken in that direction.

The Director General of Railways has turned into the National Treasury the sum of $250,000 national gold as the surplus of receipts over operating expenses of the Isthmus Railway during the month of August; $150,000 excess on behalf of the Mexican Railway (from Mexico City to Vera Cruz), and $200,000 excess on behalf of the National lines for the same period.

Careful attention is being given to the monetary problem of the Republic, caused by the recent rise in the value of silver, and the consequent changed relation of the silver coinage of the country as compared with the value of foreign coin. With silver worth over $1 gold per ounce in the markets of the world, the silver peso approaches very nearly the same value as the American silver dollar, yet the exchange rate is about half that. The suggestion has been made that a solution could be found by decreeing that the peso should be accepted and circulated on a par with the dollar.

The export duty on henequen fiber has been established at 5 per cent ad valorem.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

General Alvaro Obregon

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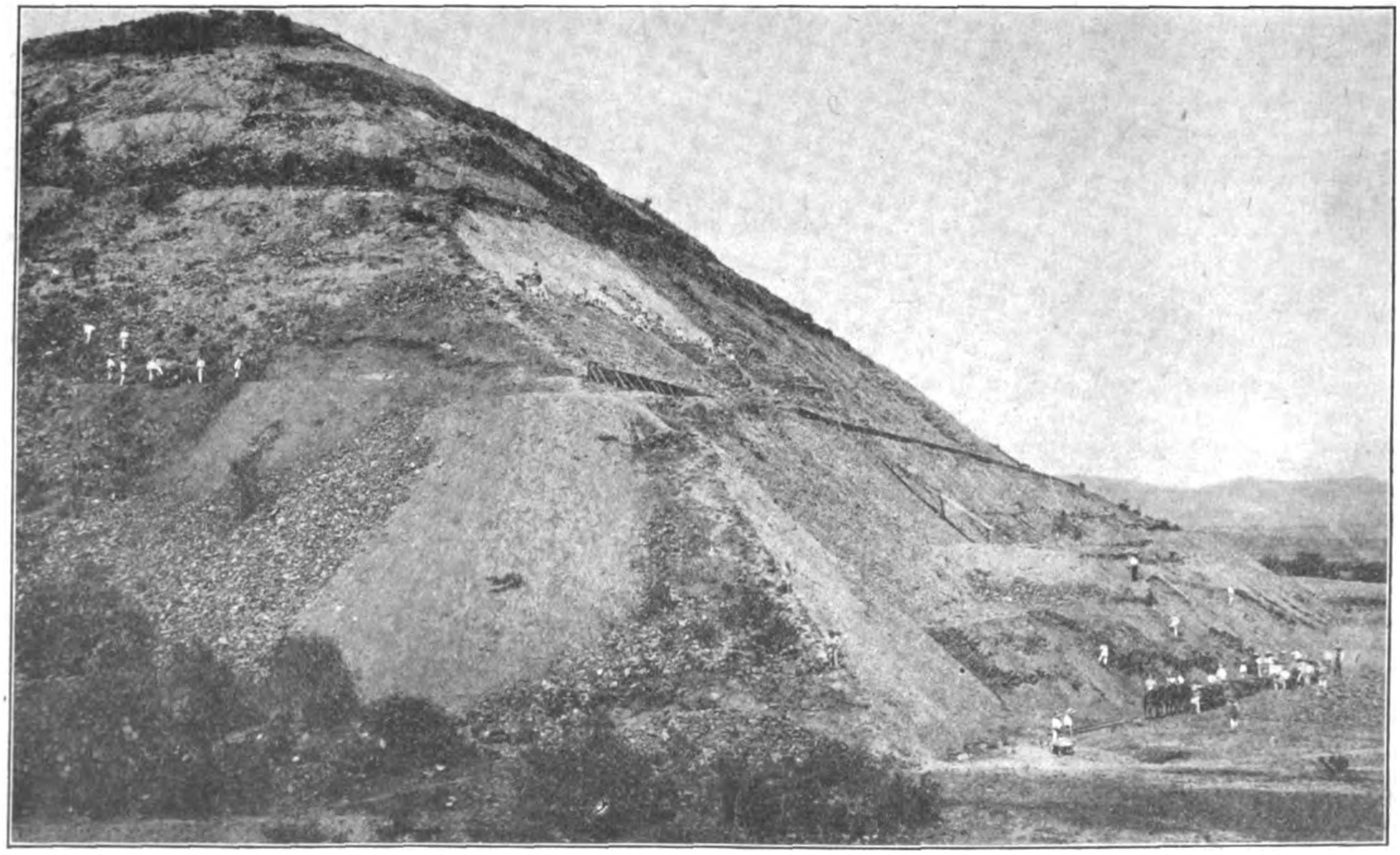


Pyramid of the Sun, San Juan Teotihuacan (Work of Restoration Under Way)

TEN CENTS THE COPY

Condition of the Railroads

General Obregon's Tour

Visiting the United States for Health and Pleasure—He Denounces the False Rumors of Pro-German Propaganda

GENERAL ALVARO OBREGON, one of the heroes of the Mexican revolution, who won the first great fight (that at Santa Rosa, Sonora, in April, 1913), the "man who never lost a battle," and who did more than any other one person to bring the revolution to a successful conclusion, is now in the United States on a visit combining pleasure and health seeking. He has received hearty and enthusiastic welcomes at every place visited and has talked in a very straightforward and satisfactory manner about his country.

In an interview at Los Angeles he said:

"If necessary, Mexico will solve its own financial difficulties by appealing to its own resources, without the help of a single foreign dollar; but if help should come from the United States in this direction, it would be well received."

He called attention to the enormous natural resources which Mexico possesses, and declared that, if judiciously exploited, the country would be enabled to meet its own needs without having to continually apply for foreign help.

When asked whether it was true that there was being carried on in Mexico an active propaganda in favor of the Germans, General Obregon answered as follows:

"There is no more German propaganda in Mexico than there is in any other nation. We will not allow Germany to use us for its particular purposes; however there exists in some circles, sympathy for the Germans, but this sympathy is eclipsed by our good desires to keep cordial relations of friendship with the American nation. Mexico will remain neutral, if this task is humanly possible. I cannot see any possibility of Mexico allying itself with the Germans, and my particular wish is that Mexico should keep itself isolated from the contest, as an absolutely neutral nation."

At a dinner given to General Obregon by the leading citizens of Springfield, Ill., which the Mexican leader visited by reason of its having been the home of President Lincoln, who is held in such high esteem in Mexico, he said:

"When I return to my country I will be asked concerning the United States and I will say that I have been received with the greatest consideration and have been the subject of loving attention.

"The dinner given here by the residents of Springfield is one of the most delightful incidents of my trip through the United States, all of which has been of great interest and satisfaction to me. It was a matter of great interest to me to have been given an opportunity to visit the tomb of Abraham Lincoln, that great American, this afternoon.

"Lincoln knew no distinctions of boundaries. He illuminated the whole world.

"It gives me pride to stand here in the presence of the ladies, who add honor to the occasion. I will preserve the memories of this evening which will give me opportunity in the future to recall the people of Springfield. It will instill into Mexican hearts a feeling of gratitude. It will do much good too in binding closely the two nations in bonds of kindness and love forever."

General Alvaro Obregon

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

THE travels of General Obregon in this country, if one may judge of the effect of his visit to this city, are likely to be of great value both to his own country and to ours. The more Mexicans of his type who visit and enlighten us the better for us all.

The American people have the most friendly feeling toward Mexico. We desire none of their territory and do desire that the Mexican people shall be increasingly prosperous. But the masses of the American people do not visit Mexico, and some Americans who have visited that country and invested there have apparently not so conducted themselves as to make Americans popular.

And we have suffered greatly by an unceasing propaganda carried on against us in that country by European competitors for Mexican trade. And we need not lay it all to "Germans," for British traders have been as desirous as others to create hostility to this country, not because they were Germans or British or French, but because they desired to make it more difficult for us to compete. However strenuously they might compete with each other, they united like brothers to create enmity against us, because, by geographical situation, our competition is most dangerous.

It is also doubtless true, as General Obregon said, and as has been said many times before, that American salesmen have usually failed to adapt themselves to Mexican habits, desires or prejudices, but have strenuously urged that they take what we have to offer, and take it quick, so that the salesmen could make the next town.

The distinguishing traits of the Spanish-speaking people are courtesy and deliberation. It is useless to deny that the distinguishing trait of American business is lack of both. This country is prosperous and rich, doubtless as the result of American energy. Mexico is disturbed and unprosperous, doubtless, in part, owing to Spanish deliberation and content with whatever is. Unquestionably, American business, which produces, sells, lends and invests, has too often expressed itself in a certain arrogance, well calculated to check trade and promote positive dislike. It appears to be true that until recently it was unusual for salesmen visiting Mexico to show to their proposed customers even the courtesy of learning their language. That is being remedied. It was never true of Germans, and rarely true of British or French.

Economic changes have made it highly important for the Mexican people to be friendly with us. Here, if anywhere, they must get the financial help which they need. All that is required on our part to make great progress with that people is really a reform in our manners—which will be good for us, anyhow —*San Francisco Chronicle.*

OIL DEPOSITS UNDERNEATH THE WATER

A well known geologist, Fernando Urbina, states that oil seepages are found not only on the land but in the sea as well. He claims to have discovered, through researches made by himself, that the oil districts of Tampico, Tuxpam, Tehuantepec, etc., are continued in the Gulf of Mexico and that great deposits exist there; also that they can be exploited in the same manner as on land, by drilling. The limits of the sub-sea oil area can be determined down to a depth of twenty meters (65 feet), and the deposits are declared to cover a strip of the western littoral of the Atlantic from the island of Marta down to the Orinoco, a distance of more than 33 degrees of latitude. In his judgment the exploitation of the under-sea deposits can be profitably undertaken in those portions of the gulf that abut on the shores of the United States as well as of Mexico. In conclusion Mr. Urbina says: "Because of the great and increasing necessity for obtaining petroleum, lubricating oil, gasoline, etc., from wherever they can be had, the development of the sub-sea deposits would open a new horizon for the Mexican oil industry, and at the same time would bring up interesting questions as to the ownership of oil found in those localities that do not belong to the territorial waters of any nation, but to the high seas."

Facts About Mexican Railways

Rolling Stock of All Kinds Now Equal to Pre-Revolution Days—Official Statements on the Subject

AN interesting light is thrown upon statements recently made in the *Saturday Evening Post* and also in the *Mining and Scientific Press* of San Francisco concerning the condition of the railways in Mexico, which are far from the truth, as will be shown. Great stress is laid upon the alleged wholesale destruction of engines and cars during the Revolution and what is claimed to be a present shortage of rolling stock.

The last annual report of the National Railways of Mexico, made in 1916, shows the following facts:

In 1913, before there had been any destruction of consequence, there were 435 passenger coaches of broad gauge and 118 of narrow gauge. In 1916 there were 414 broad gauge and 101 narrow gauge—or a net loss of but 21 and 17 respectively.

In 1913 there were 16,661 freight cars of broad gauge and 1831 of narrow gauge. In 1916 there were 13,222 of broad gauge and 1396 of narrow gauge—a loss of 3439 of the one and 434 of the other.

In 1913 there were 635 broad gauge locomotives and 94 narrow gauge. In 1916 there were 596 of the broad gauge and 83 of the narrow—a loss of 83 and 11 respectively.

Since the date of this report large additions have been made to the rolling stock of all kinds, by repair, construction and purchase. Further additions are constantly being made.

General Agent De Hoyos, who represents the Constitutionalist railways in New York, is responsible for the statement that within the last six months there have been purchased 600 freight cars, 80 passenger cars and sixty locomotives. Three thousand cars are now under repair in the company's own shops, which when completed will bring the equipment practically to the same point as in 1913—in fact, it is already larger so far as regards locomotives and passenger coaches, but a trifle less in regard to freight cars.

BASIS OF PETROLEUM TAXATION

Under date of October 16th, Sub-Secretary of the Treasury Nieto gave notice that for the months of September and October the special stamp tax of ten per cent on exports of petroleum would be levied upon the following basis of values:

Combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, $10 per ton.

Crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, $13 per ton.

Petroleum of a density greater than 0.97, $5.50 per ton.

Gas oil, $10 per ton.

Refined gasoline in bulk or barrels, 12 cents per liter.

Crude gasoline in bulk or barrels, 11¼ cents per liter.

Kerosene crude or refined, in bulk or barrels, 3 cents per liter.

The valuations of crude and combustible petroleum will be increased or diminished in accordance with its density as stated in the decree of April 13, 1917.

These valuations are in Mexican gold, the equivalent in American gold being one-half.

The total amount of the tax on the various grades of petroleum is therefore 55 cents, $1 and $1.30 per ton for the respective grades, in Mexican gold, or 27½ cents, 50 cents and 65 cents American gold. The oil varies from 6 to 7 barrels to the ton, according to density, and the tax is therefore from about four cents to 9 3-10 cents to the barrel.

The tax on gasoline and kerosene on the basis of four liters to the gallon is: Refined gasoline, 4 8-10 cents Mexican gold, or 2 4-10 American; crude gasoline, 4½ cents, or 2¼ cents American, and on kerosene 1 2-10 cents or 6-10 of a cent American gold per gallon.

PROTECTING THE NATIONAL REFINING INDUSTRY

Under date of October 16th, President Carranza issued the following decree:

"WHEREAS, for the purpose of protecting the National industry of refining of petroleum, it is necessary to establish different quotas for the products in their native state from those fixed on refined products, calculating them in proportion to the total of the tax on their components; as well as to fix a smaller value on crude gasoline leaving kerosenes in the same circumstances.

"I have seen fit to decree the following:

"Article First—For the fixing of the special stamp tax on crude petroleum produced in the country, the Department of Finance will fix at the end of each period of two months the value of crude petroleum so that the tax of ten (10%) per cent which it must pay shall be equal to the total of taxes paid by its components, fuel oil, crude kerosene and crude gasoline.

"In the same way, to determine the proportion of component parts referred to in this article the average which crude petroleum refined in the country contains of them, shall be taken as basis.

"Article Second—The Department of Finance will fix at the end of each two months period, prices of refined gasoline and kerosene taking the average values in the City of New York during the foregoing month; on the understanding that these same prices shall be applied to crude gasoline and kerosene, discounting three-fourths of a centavo from the price of each unit in fixing the price of crude gasoline.

"*Transitory*—Article fourth of the Decree of April 13th of this year and sole article of Decree of 30th of last June are hereby rescinded insofar as they are inconsistent with this decree."

LATEST NEWS NOTES

Railroad employes in the State of Jalisco will organize a cooperative association for the purpose of securing food and other necessaries at lower rates than are demanded by dealers.

With the approval of President Carranza, the State Government of Michoacan has returned to their rightful Indian owners several large tracts of agricultural land of which they had been deprived illegally.

A school of art and industry is to be established in the State of Sonora for the benefit of orphans, there being upward of a thousand of such children who are without homes and are in need of educational training.

The Governor of the State of Puebla, one of the centers of the textile industry, has organized a Commission of Conciliation and Arbitration for the settlement of disputes that arise between the working people and the employers.

On the tenth of this month through railway traffic between Mexico City and Juarez was resumed, the line having been put in good condition, bridges rebuilt or repaired, and all preparations for regular through service completed.

Chambers of Commerce of the border States of both countries are engaging in a movement to secure modifications of the new regulations in the United States regarding the exportation of various articles from that country.

A National Industrial Congress is to be held in Mexico City commencing on November 5th, at which will be present representatives of the various industries of the country who will discuss matters of great interest to all.

In addition to the extension of educational facilities in other directions, the Government of the State of Colima proposes to establish a farm and agricultural school for instruction in the latest methods of soil cultivation, etc.

Official reports from the State of Guerrero state that the crops are better than for the previous year and have been very abundant. The State is entirely at peace, new schools are being established in all sections and normal conditions are practically resumed.

Notice has been given that the capital of the Territory of Lower California has been transferred from Ensenada, on the Pacific coast, to the town of Mexicali, on the line between the United States and Mexico. This place has rail communication and is more accessible than the former capital.

The authorities report the recent settlement of a large number of foreigners of various nationalities at Bamori, a remote point in the northern portion of the State of Sonora, who have gone there without authorization or notification. They are said to be men who are seeking to escape the military service in the United States.

The Agrarian Commission of the State of Vera Cruz is prosecuting its labors with vigor and it is announced that within a brief period all the former community lands in that commonwealth will be restored to the original and rightful owners, thereby ameliorating conditions to a great extent, as thousands will thus be provided with small farms.

San Juan Teotihuacan Ruins

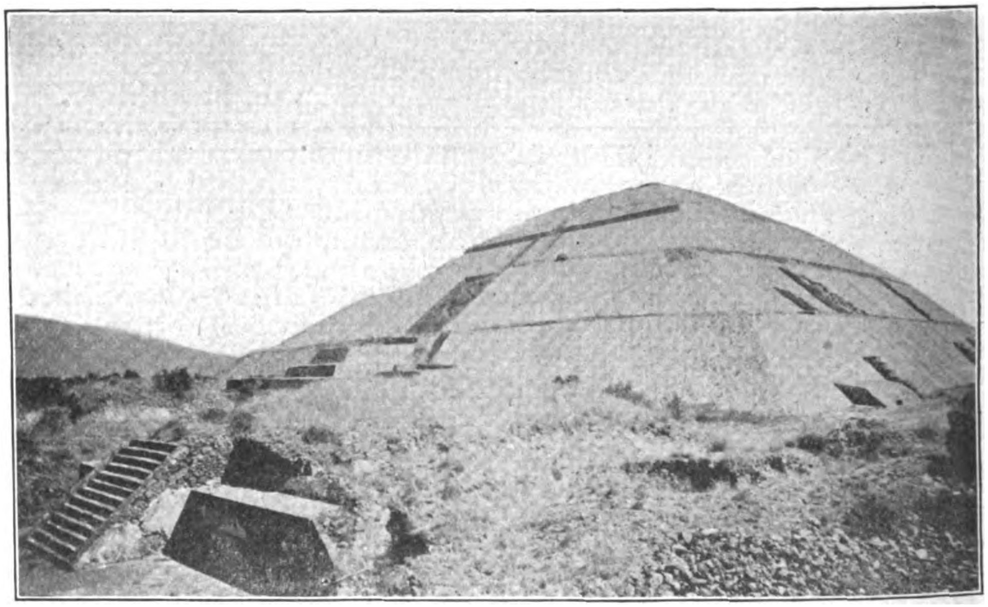
The Wonderful Pyramids Whose Origin was not Known to the Natives Even in the Time of Cortez

THE work of exploring the famous ruins of San Juan Teotihuacan, which had been suspended throughout the revolutionary period, has been resumed under the direction of the Secretary of Fomento, and it is believed that some very important and interesting discoveries will be made. Recently an excursion was organized to these prehistoric ruins, composed of the diplomatic corps and high public functionaries, to most of the former it being an entirely new and novel experience. In this connection, the account of these remains of a forgotten race as given in Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" is of interest. It should be said, however, that since this account was written, the Pyramid of the Sun has been restored in greater part to its ancient condition, and much progress has been made in excavating other ruins in the same locality. THE REVIEW gives herewith illustrations of the ruins as they were when Prescott wrote, and also as they are at present.

The great author wrote:

"The monuments of San Juan Teotihuacan are, with the exception of the temple of Cholula, the most ancient remains, probably, on the Mexican soil. They were found by the Aztecs, according to their traditions, on their entrance into the country, when Teotihuacan, the habitation of the gods, now a paltry village, was a flourishing city, the rival of Tula, the great Toltec capital. The two principal pyramids were dedicated to Tonatiuh, the Sun, and Meztli, the Moon. The former, which is considerably the larger, is found by recent measurements to be six hundred and eighty-two feet long at the base, and one hundred and eighty feet high, dimensions not inferior to those of some of the kindred monuments of Egypt. They were divided into four stories, of which three are now discernible, while the vestiges of the intermediate gradations are nearly effaced. In fact, so much displaced by the treacherous vegetation of the tropics, muffling up with its flowery mantle the ruin which it causes, that it is not easy to discern, at once, the pyramidal form of the structures. The huge masses bear such resemblance to the North American mounds, that some have fancied them to be only natural eminences shaped by the hand of man into a regular form, and ornamented with the temples and terraces, the wreck of which still covers their slopes. But others, seeing no example of a similar elevation in the wide plain in which they stand, infer, with more probability, that they are wholly of an artificial construction.

"The interior is composed of clay mixed with pebbles, incrusted on the surface with the light porous stone tetzontile, so abundant in the neighbouring quarries. Over this was a thick coating of stucco, resembling, in its reddish colour, that found in the ruins of Palenque. According to tradition, the pyramids are hollow, but hitherto the attempt to discover the cavity in that dedicated to the Sun has been unsuccessful. In the smaller mound, an aperture has been found on the southern side, at two-thirds of the elevation. It is formed by a narrow gallery, which, after penetrating to the distance of several yards, terminates in two pits or wells. The largest of these is about fifteen feet deep; and the sides are faced with unbaked bricks; but to what purpose it was devoted, nothing is left to show. It may have been to hold the ashes of some powerful chief, like the solitary apartment discovered in the great Egyptian pyramid. That these monuments were dedicated to religious uses there is no doubt; and it would be only conformable to the practice of antiquity in the eastern continent, that they should have served for tombs as well as temples.



Pyramid of the Sun, San Juan Teotihuacan, as Restored

"Distinct traces of the latter destination are said to be visible on the summit of the smaller pyramid, consisting of the remains of stone walls, showing a building of considerable size and strength. There are no remains on the top of the pyramid of the Sun. But the traveler who will take the trouble to ascend its bald summit will be amply compensated by the glorious view it will open to him; towards the south-east the hills of Tlascala, surrounded by their green plantations and cultivated cornfields, in the midst of which stands the little village, once the proud capital of the republic. Somewhat further to the south, the eye passes across the beautiful plains lying around the city of Puebla de los Angeles, founded by the old Spaniards, and still rivaling, in the splendor of its churches, the most brilliant capitals of Europe; and far in the west he may behold the Valley of Mexico, spread out like a map, with its diminished lakes, its princely capital rising in still greater glory from its ruins, and its rugged hills gathering darkly around it, as in the days of Montezuma.

"The summit of this larger mound is said to have been crowned by a temple, in which was a colossal statue of its presiding deity, the Sun, made of one entire block of stone, and facing the east. Its breast was protected by a plate of burnished gold and silver, on which the first rays of the rising luminary rested. An antiquary, in the early part of the last century, speaks of having seen some fragments of the statue. It was still standing, according to report, on the invasion of the Spaniards, and was demolished by the indefatigable Bishop Zumarraga, whose hand fell more heavily than that of Time itself on the Aztec monuments.

"Around the principal pyramids are a great number of smaller ones, rarely exceeding thirty feet in height, which, according to tradition, were dedicated to the stars, and served as sepulchres for the great men of the nation. They are arranged symmetrically in avenues terminating at the sides of the great pyramids, which face the cardinal points. The plain on which they stand was called Micoatl, or "Path of the Dead." The laborer, as he turns up the ground, still finds there numerous arrow-heads and blades of obsidian, attesting the warlike character of its primitive population.

"What thoughts must crowd on the mind of the traveler as he wanders amidst these memorials of the past; as he treads over the ashes of the generations who reared these colossal fabrics, which take us from the present into the very depths of time! But who were their builders? Was it the shadowy Olmecs, whose history, like that of the ancient Titans, is lost in the mists of fable? or as commonly reported, the peaceful and industrious Toltecs, of whom all that we can glean rests on traditions hardly more secure? What has become of

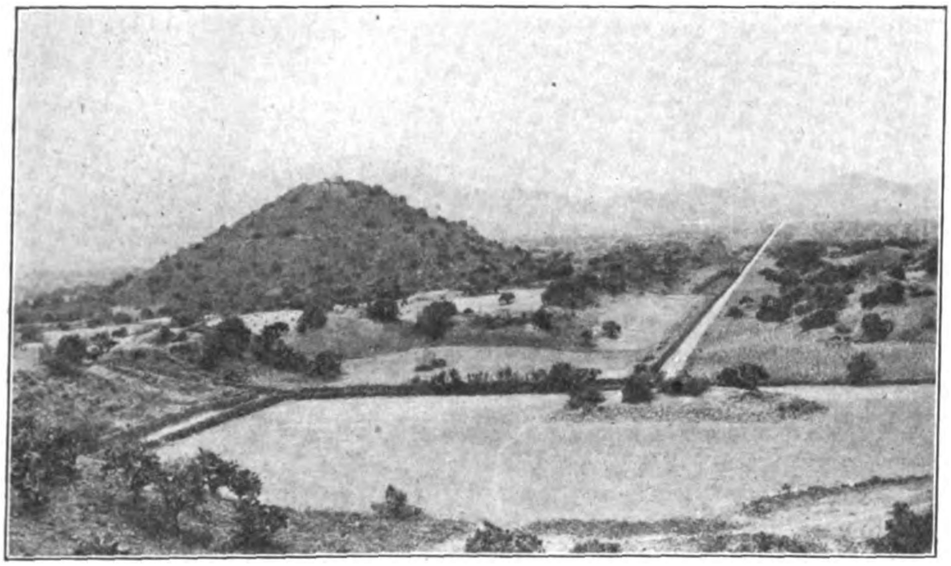
Military Agricultural Colonies

Project by Which a Large Self-Supporting Army Shall Be at All Times Ready for National Defense

MR. ZEFERINO DOMINGUEZ, well known as the "corn expert" of Mexico, has outlined in a Mexico City newspaper his plan for the establishment of military agricultural colonies, as follows:

"In each State of the Republic there could be established military farms, which could contribute in a really practical manner to the progress of agriculture in our country.

"I have submitted my project to the study of divers corporations, and in all the conferences that I have held in Mexico and in the exterior, in which I have dealt upon the matter of creating a National Agrarian-Military Army, I have received the approbation of statisticians and sociologists of world-wide reputation, of practical agriculturists, and of competent soldiers or military men, by which I trust that flattering results may be obtained.



Pyramid of the Sun, San Juan Teotihuacan, Before Restoration

"It is for this reason that I propose that this idea may be studied by the Government of the Republic, which is the only entity that could put it in practice, and I have the firm conviction that in that way could the problem of the distribution of lands be solved, and thus develop the national resources, once that peace had been assured by the Government.

"It could be alleged that the actual economic situation of the Nation might be an obstacle to the realization of this project; but if we analyze the question down to its bottom, we shall find that whatever amount is invested, even though in so doing would require great sacrifices, it would be greatly compensated and would result in great benefits for all social classes.

"The Nation owns, in all the States, lands that could be used for the purpose indicated above; but even if the lands had to be bought, the benefits that would result afterwards would clearly show that those efforts would be duly repaid.

"In each of the Federal entities or States there could be established at least ten military agricultural colonies, conveniently distributed in the agricultural districts, or wherever they are deemed necessary by military strategy. By preference they should be located near the railways, not only for the protection of the latter, but in order to have facilities for the exportation of the agricultural products.

"Each colony would be composed of one thousand men, distributed as follows: Two hundred soldiers shall do the agricultural work over an extension of land equal to two thousand hectares or more (5000 acres) if possible. The eight hundred remaining soldiers shall be occupied in the military service, in the care of the roads and in the protection of the settlements and towns of the zone. Said soldiers, at the same time that they are occupied in the protection of life, shall also repair the roads and build new ones, according to the needs of each region. Likewise they shall be occupied with the works of irrigation, building of canals, digging wells, etc.

"The agricultural employment of the two hundred soldiers would be for one week, at the end of which they shall return to their military service, being substituted by two hundred of their comrades.

"In this way, and while they are defenders of the country, they would at the same time also be elements of progress, because by improving agriculture, which is our main source of riches, Mexico could be placed at the height to which she belongs beyond doubt, more so when she has been so prodigiously provided for by nature.

"This agrarian-military service would be for three years and obligatory. At the end of this term, the soldier who has observed good conduct, has faithfully served the Government and done his duties as citizen, shall receive, as compensation, a lot of ground of five hectares (12½ acres), with his house upon it, a team of horses or mules, the necessary implements, and two hundred pesos, which is the amount that is needed for the operation of his property and for putting it in a condition to produce.

"The home and the land that each soldier shall have won by reason of his courage, his loyalty and his labor will have the protection of the State, and will have the guardianship of a law called 'Free Homestead.'

"In this way the soldier would not only work out his own future, but would really be useful to his country. On the other hand, he will love the land which is so prodigious and generous, and will be an important factor in the progress of agriculture in a country that is eminently agricultural.

"With the system of agrarian-military colonies there would be an army of 270,000 faithful men, who will fight for one ideal: The Home. This army would not require great expense for its maintenance, and besides being a really respectable and respected in[illegible] it would be a powerful help towards [illegible] development of the natural resources [illegible] country.

"Thus, within a short time, there [illegible] a formidable army, capable of [illegible] power, guaranties, order, prestige an[illegible] ness to the Mexican Nation.

"Within three years, once this sy[illegible] been adopted, there would be an [illegible] increase to the number of land p[illegible] with the duty of rendering their services in case of war or foreign invasion.

"On the other hand, these proprietors would increase the numbers of the ranks of the middle class, which is really progressive, and with whom are the hopes for the progress of Mexico."

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the races who built them? Did they remain on the soil, and mingle and become incorporated with the fierce Aztecs who succeeded them? Or did they pass on to the south, and find a wider field for the expansion of their civilization, as shown by the higher character of the architectural remains in the distant regions of Central America and Yucatan? It is all a mystery, over which Time has thrown an impenetrable veil that no mortal hand may raise. A nation has passed away, powerful, populous, and well advanced in refinement, as attested by their monuments, but it has perished without a name. It has died and made no sign."

A special commissioner has been sent to the various South American countries with films illustrative of present conditions in Mexico, which will be widely displayed for the purpose of removing erroneous impressions regarding the country.

The authorities of the city of Juarez have begun negotiations with the El Paso officials looking toward the construction of a new bridge across the Rio Grande, the present one being insufficient to accommodate the constantly growing traffic.

Inexcusable Misstatements

Widely Published Allegations Regarding Railroad Repairs, Also Recognition of the Constitutionalist Government

THOSE who are acquainted with the conditions in Mexico and who have followed the steady march of events in that country during the past six or seven years have been surprised at some recent statements appearing in the *Saturday Evening Post* of October 6th, by Carl W. Ackerman, regarding that country. One is to the effect that: "For seven years practically no repairs have been made on any of the railway lines—either those owned by the Government or those owned abroad and operated by the authorities."

As a matter of fact, ***nothing could be further from the truth*** than this assertion. Repairs to ***all the lines*** in the Republic have been prosecuted diligently and zealously even during the worst periods of the revolution, and it has been unanimously conceded by foreigners who have traveled over the various lines, Government as well as private ones, that their condition compares most favorably with those in the United States—is, indeed, well up to the standard in such matters. Bridges have been rebuilt, tracks relaid and reballasted, and except for the presence of an occasional pile of bent and twisted rails or of iron work from burned cars by the side of the track, one might well believe he were traveling over one of the best roads in the United States. It is true, many stations were burned during the troubles, but as a rule these were of the poorer class. The fine edifices at Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, Hermosillo, Saltillo, San Luis Potosi, Queretaro, Guadalajara, Colima, Vera Cruz, Orizaba, Cordoba, Puebla, one (a stone structure) at Monterrey, those in Mexico City, as well as many others—in fact, all the best ones in the Republic—were not injured in the least. Most of those that were damaged have been repaired and constant work in this direction is being prosecuted. All these facts are well known to travelers in the Republic and should have been known to the *Post's* correspondent, as they are apparent to all.

So, too, with the rolling stock. The various railroad repair shops in all portions of the Republic have been busy for over two years in repairing engines, freight and passenger cars, and the amount of work thus accomplished has been remarkable considering the conditions. The iron work of hundreds if not thousands of cars has been utilized in the construction of new ones and the process is going steadily forward. Locomotives that had been wrecked or temporarily disabled have been put in commission by the score, and the repair shops at all the railway centers are kept fully occupied with the work, as they have been continuously since the restoration of peace and as rapidly as the lines were again controlled by the Government.

The foregoing are well-known facts easily susceptible of demonstration by personal observation, yet the *Post* correspondent has apparently preferred to repeat the allegations of antagonists of the Government rather than seek proof himself at first hand.

As to Recognition

Fully as surprising is the statement that the United States and the Allies have not recognized the present government of Mexico as a de jure one, and "that their ambassadors and ministers are not at this writing (some time in September, from all appearances) accredited to the de jure government."

The Government of Mexico was recognized by the United States Government as a de jure government in March last and has since that date been so regarded. It has been recognized by various other powers of both continents as a de jure government (namely, Spain, France, Italy, Norway, Austria and Germany) for a much longer period. The dates of recognition as a de jure government are as follows: Spain, July 4, 1916; France, August 17, 1916; Italy, December 29, 1913; England, August 24, 1914; Belgium, November 1, 1914; Sweden, February 14, 1917; Japan, April 12, 1916; China, April 14, 1914; Argentina, October 4, 1916; Salvador, January 10, 1917; Chile, January 10, 1917; Guatemala, November 6, 1916; Cuba, March 28, 1913; Germany, August 11, 1914; Austria, February 1, 1914.

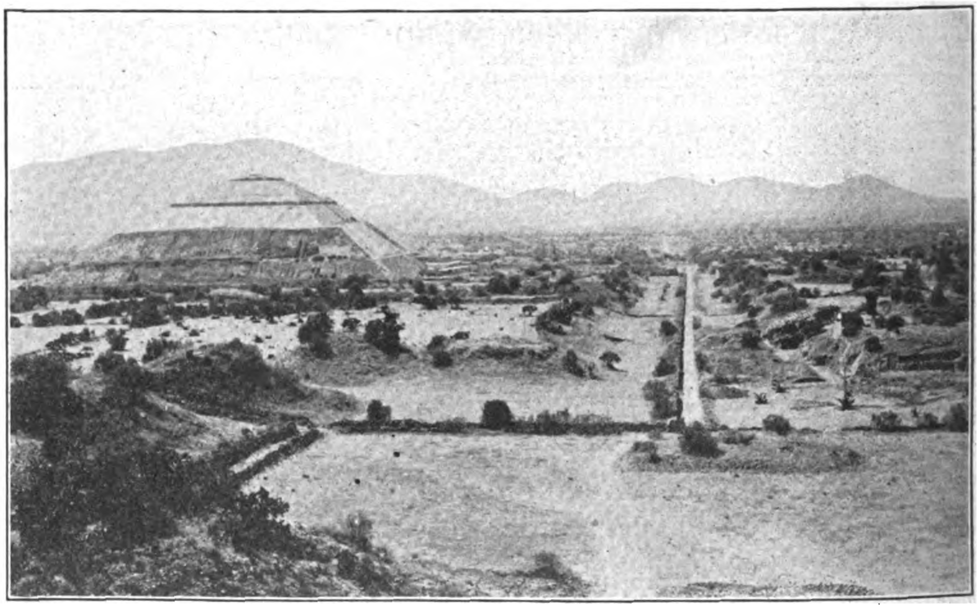
The governments that recognized the de facto Government before May 1st last have ratified their recognition to the Constitutionalist de jure government and their ministers are in Mexico now. Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Bolivia have also recognized the de jure government, but the dates are not at hand.

In the face of the foregoing facts, it is difficult to understand the reason for the mistakes noted.

The "Gresham Law" Canard

The same correspondent in a former issue of the *Post* told a silly story about some delegate to the Constitutional Convention in Queretaro last spring moving that the "Gresham law" be repealed, when that law was quoted in opposition to certain financial propositions. This canard had its origin in a Mexico City club frequented by antagonists of the country at the time the Zapatista "Chamber of Deputies" was in session. A member was said to have moved that the "law of supply and demand" be repealed or suspended, when that law was advanced in opposition to a price-fixing measure. This incident never occurred, though it has often been told regarding other legislative bodies in other countries by opponents who sought to cast ridicule upon them. The membership of the Mexican Constitutional Convention was quite as intelligent, quite as able, and quite as well informed upon economic questions as their critics, and compared very favorably with other similar bodies in other countries.

It is a pity that such foolish canards should be repeated for no other apparent purpose than to cast ridicule upon a country that is struggling for freedom against a handicap and is striving to maintain friendly relations with its next-door and more powerful neighbor under conditions that through no fault of theirs frequently do not make for friendliness.



Pyramid of the Sun Partially Restored

TAXES PAYABLE ONLY IN GOLD

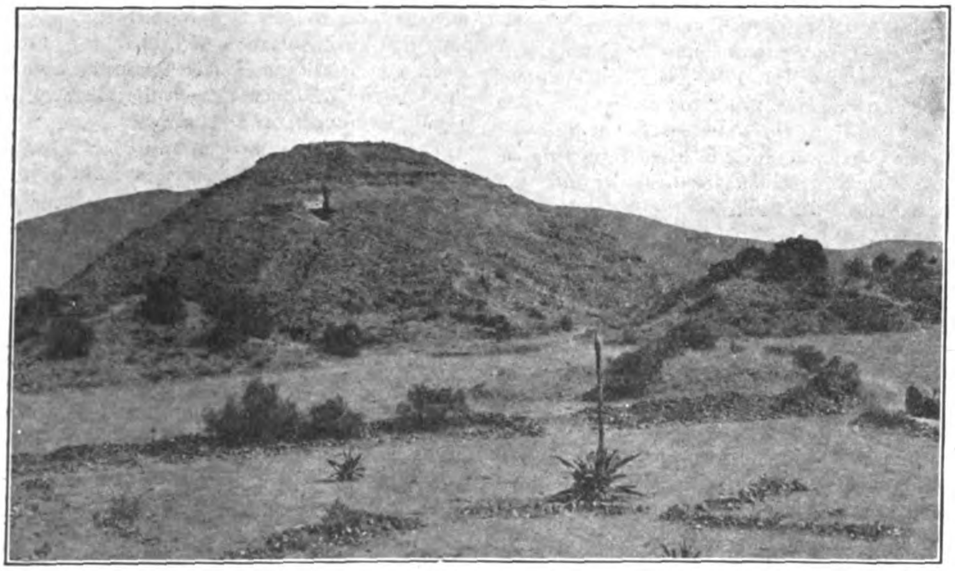
The Treasury Department, by order of the President of the Republic, in view of the fact that, due to the embargo decreed by the American Government forbidding the exportation of gold, American currency notes circulating in Mexico become practically incontrovertible, has provided that from October 1st inclusive, custom houses, stamp offices, and other Federal offices collecting taxes and other receipts, shall not receive in payment thereof such American bills or notes, American silver dollars, nor any drafts payable in foreign parts. From the same date and until further notice, the same offices shall be empowered to accept in payment of taxes, unlimitedly, American gold coins at the rate of one for two.

Regulating Labor Disputes

Measure Now Before the Chamber of Deputies Providing for the Settlement of All Controversies

Article 1. Pending the issuance of the Organic Law of Article 123 of the Federal Constitution, which relates to the settlement of the differences, controversies, or conflicts that may arise between workers, laborers, domestic employees, artisans and whatever other workers and their employers in the Federal District, the following rules and regulations will be observed:

Art. 2. For the settlement of the indicated differences or conflicts, every time that such a case may occur, the Chief of the section of the Interior Department of the Government of the District shall urge the complainants to appoint a representative, asking the other party to do likewise, both of whom and a third person, designated by the Government, should be incorporated into the Conciliatory Jury, charged with the settlement of the point in controversy.



Pyramid of the Moon, San Juan Teotihuacan

Art. 3. In order that the personality of each of the representatives appointed may be legally established, the corresponding proceedings therefor will be opened before the chief of the aforesaid section of the Government, a record of which should be made, the same to be approved and authorized by all the parties interested, and three copies made thereof, one for each of the contending parties, and the third for the archives of the Conciliatory Jury. In said minutes also will be inserted the Constitutional declaration that should be made by the representatives named.

Art. 4. As soon as the Conciliatory Jury has been incorporated, it shall call to hearing the representatives appointed by the opposing parties, who should name and summon to the hearing the workers and the employers interested in the case, in which hearing each party shall state his side of the case; he shall cite the proofs that he may deem necessary, all of which should be entered into the minutes that will be drawn for the purpose. If one hearing will not suffice, there should be held any number that may be deemed necessary, each of which proceedings will have its corresponding minutes.

Art. 5. Once the hearings have been ended, and if in the judgment of the Conciliatory Jury it is necessary to bring up for revision any document, record, or the issuance of any writ, it shall so direct, and it shall so advise the representatives of each party.

Art. 6. The Conciliatory Jury shall study the matter and render its decision at the earliest possible moment, which should not be later than eight days, counting from the day when the parties had last been summoned for said decision or from the day of the last hearing.

Art. 7. The Conciliatory Jury shall base its decision on the facts just as they appear in the résumé which it should draw up out of the minutes of the proceedings, and it shall take into consideration the bases contained in Article 123 of the Federal Constitution, in order to conscientiously decide on whatever is just.

Art. 8. In all the decisions of the Jury which may be financially against the employers there should be stated the time limit within which said decisions should be complied with.

Art. 9. If that time limit has expired and the party against whom the decision had been rendered had not given its compliance to the decision, the other (the winning party) shall be entitled to the decision, with the right to apply to the competent judge with request for the execution of the corresponding decision; the judicial authority then should adjust its proceedings to the laws relating to the execution of the arbitral decision.

Art. 10. The decision that will be pronounced by the Conciliatory Jury, besides making it known to the interested parties by formal notice, which will be entered in the respective minutes, will be published in the "Diaro Oficial" (Official Daily or Official Bulletin), and in another paper that may be deemed necessary in the Federal District.

Art. 11. Such decisions can be caused to be executed and should be duly compiled with, at the instance of any of the interested parties, according to Article 9 of this Regulation.

Art. 12. In order that the proceedings of the Conciliatory Jury may be duly effected, there should be chosen by secret vote, during its first meeting and immediately after the depositions have been made by all members thereof, a chairman out of the two representatives in the Jury, and the other shall act as Secretary thereof.

Art. 13. The representative of the Government shall take part in the proceedings of the Jury as an intermediary, his vote being necessary in all cases when his intervention is mediatory and necessary to bring harmony among the representatives of the interested parties.

Art. 14. When any of the contending parties refuse to name a representative to be incorporated in the Conciliatory Jury so that the relative question may be solved in accordance with this Regulation, the dispositions of this Regulation should (or shall) not be observed; but in that case the Government of the District shall apply Clause XXI of Article 123 of the Constitution.

Art. 15. The fees that shall be due to the members of the Conciliatory Jury shall be respectively paid by the parties that appointed them, and the common expenses shall be charged to the Government of the District.

An Appeal for Fairplay

Apropos to certain malicious and uncalled for attacks upon Mexico that have appeared in the public press, Rev. J. W. Butler, who has resided in that country many years, says in part:

"Now let us suppose a case. Suppose that some Mexican with a facile pen and a well-developed imagination should visit the United States with his kodak to investigate and write up such things as our Mormon blot, our sweat-shops, the low dives of some of our Northern cities, the lynching scenes, not only in the South but sometimes in the North, and such riots as recently occurred in East St. Louis. What dark and disgraceful pictures he could paint on returning home! In addition to all this suppose he should so present the case as to make the impression that his pictures were the rule rather than the exception in our country. What kind of indignation would roll all the way from the Atlantic to the Pacific?

"What we are asking for is a fair show or a square deal for Mexico. In other words, let our public writers and speakers cultivate the same honest consideration for this country that we should ask of those who visit our country for the purpose of studying its conditions. A little more fairness would help bring about better international relations."

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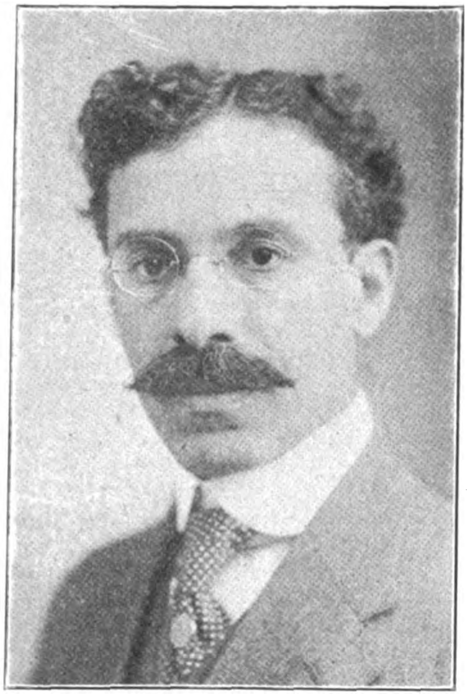

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Irrigation Projects Under Way

Important Improvements Being Undertaken in Various Portions of the Republic for the Benefit of Agriculture

ONE of the most important phases of the work that is being undertaken by the Ministry of Public Improvements is that which relates to the revision of all the concessions granted for the exploitation of water and water power that exist in various parts of the country, and which comprise either the torrential waters, or waters in the rivers and creeks, or the waters that are available for irrigation purposes from the several lakes that exist in the Republic.

The importance that should be attributed to the various water concessions is very great, because it is upon them that depends the improvement of agriculture in the country, in as much as, except in certain determined regions, it is necessary to have a good system of canals and irrigation, and the building of numerous dams, as the majority of the rivers do not have permanent beds (or do not have same beds throughout the year).

It is known that large extensions of lands that lie idle in the States bordering the United States, notwithstanding the fact that they are on the southern bank of the Rio Bravo, are completely deserted for lack of cultivation; but they really offer a bright prospect to agriculture, with only one requirement, and that is, a good system of canals, of which they are now lacking.

Among the great works that could be cited in this region is the great dam for the storage of the waters of the Rio Bravo, called "Elephant Butte." It has been some time since our country entered into an agreement with the United States in regard to the exploitation of the waters of the Rio Bravo, by virtue of which there belongs to Mexico the use of seventy-six million cubic meters of water.

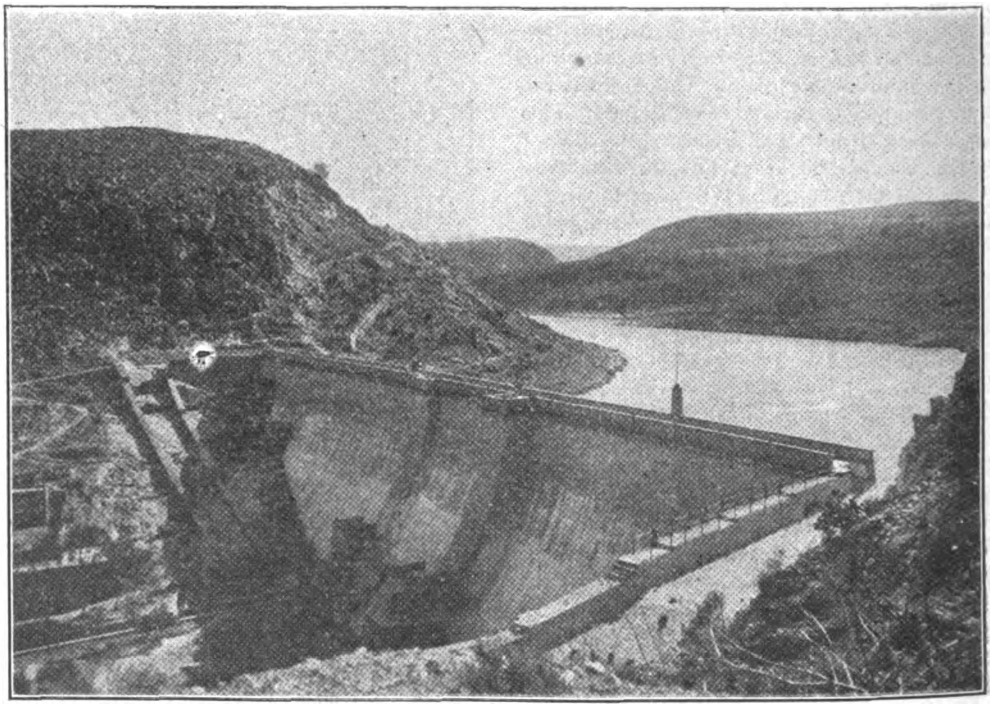
When a new impulse was given to the policy of irrigation in the Republic, the field works for the exploitation of said waters were continued and are now ended, and a special commission was appointed, called the Irrigation Commission of Juarez Valley, at whose head was Engineer Manuel Bancalari.

This Commission, after different activities in the North, has returned to this Capital, and has been occupied with the organization of an extensive project which contemplates the construction of a canal from a place called "Azequia Madre de Ciudad Juarez" to San Ignacio and Guadalupe. The project asks that negotiations be undertaken with the United States, through the Ministry of Foreign Relations, with a view to obtain an increase in the volume of water that we could dispose of, as the extent of the works that are being contemplated would require more water than is now available.

These studies for immediate irrigation have been made, not only in the bordering States, but all over the Republic, where works of this character have been inaugurated, sometimes with the help of the authorities.

It has been some time since when Mr. Perusquia, Governor of the State of Queretaro, requested the Ministry of Public Improvements to send a technical commission to that State for the purpose of studying that region; he also submitted a project for the irrigation of the same.

The river of San Juan Del Rio, which traverses one of the most fertile regions of the State of Queretaro and of the Republic in general, on account of the high quality of the lands, should be completely used in the construction of a good system of irrigation which, at the same time that it would provide water during all the seasons of the year, it would also prevent the frequent floods that are so injurious in those regions regarding the good outcome of the crops.



Dam and Reservoir at San Luis Potosi

After conscientious studies the Commission that went to Queretaro has submitted its report, in which it states that the only way by which this project could be effected would be by building a storage dam of sufficient capacity. The plans for the same are now being studied.

The northern part of the Territory of Lower California consists of lands of marvelous fertility, improved by the circumstance of being near the banks of the Colorado River, which is the boundary between that Territory and the State of Sonora, and receives at its mouth the waters of the tributary called Rio Nuevo (New River), both of which enclose a zone that could very well be employed for purposes of building canals.

The Section of Water Powers has already sent a commission, presided over by Engineer Carlos Gutierrez, which commission is now engaged in the preparation of an extensive report and drafting the respective project, which will be forwarded to the Ministry of Public Improvements.

On its part, the Ministry of War, having in consideration the importance of that region, has commissioned General Fermin Carpio to undertake the establishment of military agricultural colonies in the neighborhood, which colonies would contribute towards the improvement of the works of irrigation and canalization; and it is not idle to state that within a short time time that region would be one of the most favored in the northern part of the country.

Much has been said recently about the extensive projects that are contemplated towards the utilization of the magnificent irrigating system that is presented by the Lake of Chapala, as well as by the waters of the Rio de Santiago or Tololotlan, which has its source in that lake.

Besides the works that have been begun with earnestness towards the destruction of the water lilies of that region, it should be stated here that there is at present under consideration by the Ministry of Public Improvements a great project, proposed by Engineer Manuel Cuesta Gallardo, contractor of the works that have been suspended, by means of which project, if approved, the Government will undertake to continue the carrying on of said works until they are finished.

Also, the decisions on the petitions that have been submitted by the inhabitants of the banks of the lake, to whom belong the rights of ownership of the lands that result from the drying up of the nearby marshes, are now almost complete, and a vigorous impulse will very soon be given to the work of irrigation in those parts.

The Government has decided to purchase large amounts of corn in the United States and in the Argentine, which will be sold to consumers at cost.

Peones Getting Land

The Fundamental Question at the Basis of the Revolution—Leaders Are Keeping Their Promises

MEXICO is returning the land to the peones as fast as she can parcel it out, and the process of regeneration is progressing so rapidly that Villa and other former chieftains have sunk almost overnight from the position of great factional leaders to an insignificance that brings them not even a single newspaper paragraph tucked away on an inside page.

This was the declaration made to the New York *Globe* by Dr. Alfredo Caturegli, personal representative of President Carranza, who has offices at 120 Broadway. His mission is to negotiate a loan from American bankers for the Mexican Government.

Land, land, land! It was the magical password of Mexico. For centuries since the Spanish conquistadores wrested the country from the Aztec, the dominant minority held all the rich acres, and the huge but enslaved majority was forced to work them for others. The Church held vast tracts away from the people. And the land-holding aristocracy's estates were of such vast proportions that a round dozen of landlords owned the entire State of Morelos.

Basis of All Trouble

"The agrarian question was at the bottom of all Mexican trouble," said Dr. Caturegli.

"The peones wanted the land. That was there was to it. And they followed whoever promised it to them. Madero promised, and they rose at his back in a revolt that overthrew the long-entrenched regime of Diaz and put Madero in the President's chair. But Madero could not keep his promises, and so was lost. The peones were aroused and bound now to have what they sought.

"The sole reason why Zapata rebelled against Madero," added Dr. Caturegli, "was because the poor Morelos Indians whom he controlled had believed that the triumph of the Madero revolution meant the restoration of their lands inside of a dozen days. Finding that this was not done—could not be done—they took the lands, dispossessed the dozen or so, mostly non-residents, who had monopolized the entire State, and have cultivated those lands since and kept out all interlopers.

Land Restoration Is Constant

"Since the final occupation of Mexico City in the summer of 1915 by Carranza and the establishment of a permanent government there, the Mexico City newspapers have published volumes of official reports regarding the restoration and allotment of lands to the peons. It is going on all the time. The land is going back to the people, and with the main cause of dissension thus out of the way, prosperity and peace are developing with remarkable rapidity."

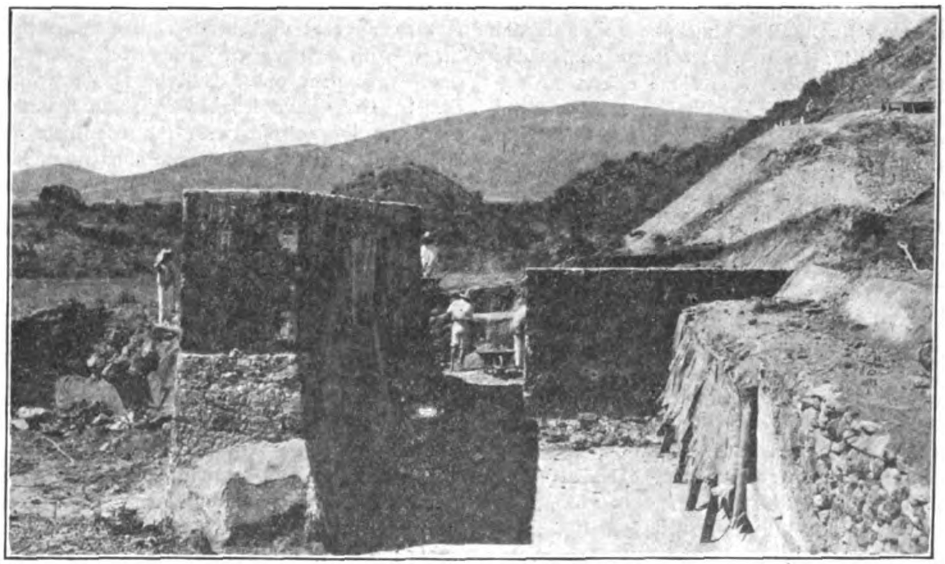
Dr. Caturegli stamped as a lie the widespread report that Mexico's main legal tender is cartridges. Also, he declared that there is no Carranza paper currency in circulation.

"During the latter part of 1916 and the first months of 1917 Carranza paper went entirely out of circulation and its place was taken by gold and silver," he said. "Of national paper there is none to-day. The country is on a 'hard money' basis."

He referred to the export tax on oil made effective by decree of May 1, 1917, as grossly misrepresented outside of Mexico. The tax, he said, was not fixed until after consultation with the great oil operators. It amounts to 40 cents (American) a ton or 5.7 cents (American) a barrel.

Not Confiscatory, He Says

"No fair-minded man can say that is confiscatory," he said.



Excavations Near Pyramid of the Sun, San Juan Teotihuacan

All in all, Dr. Caturegli concluded, Mexico is showing to-day that she is on the right road to regeneration, and that, left to herself, she can work out her own salvation. He declared, however, that there are interests in this country still actively engaged in an endeavor to embroil Mexico and the United States, in order to profit by American intervention.

"These trouble-makers insist America is morally responsible for Mexico," he said, "and do not concede that we are getting ahead. And the Mexican nation regards all this solicitude for its civilization, its order, and its morality with a suspicious eye. It believes the interventionalist advocates in reality want to seize the wealth of Mexico, and that if Mexico did not offer such a tempting field for exploitation there would be no talk of consideration for the improvement of its people."

Official notice has been received from the Governor of the State of San Luis Potosi that the crops in that portion of the country are exceptionally good, not only of grain but of fruit.

UNLAWFUL EXPORTATION OF SILVER

Sub-Secretary Nieto, of the Treasury Department, has issued the following notice:

"On account of the rise in the price of silver there have been effected lately contraband exportations of coin, several of which have been confiscated.

"For the information of the public, and in order to avoid useless requests to the Ministry of Finance, it is hereby announced that invariably, and without exception, there shall be applied to those cases the provisions contained in the following circular, which is in force:

"In order that the prohibition to export national coins of gold or silver, decreed on the 27th of October, 1914, under the penalty of confiscation, may not be violated, this Ministry, by order of the Citizen First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, encharged with the Executive Power of the Nation, has seen fit to direct that the most strict vigilance be exercised at the frontier custom houses and ports of the Republic, making the expressed penalty administratively effective in all cases, and to the extent of the full amount involved; that for every violation that may be detected, the application of the penalty will be entered in writing, and notice must be sent at once to this Ministry of the distribution of the amounts that have been confiscated, which distribution is to be made as follows: twenty per cent to the informer or denouncer, twenty per cent to the captors or apprehensors, ten per cent to the employees of the custom house or garrison, and fifty per cent to the revenues. If there be no informer or denouncer, the portion allotted to him will be added to that which belongs to the captors or apprehensors."

The Congress of the State of Mexico has adopted a provision of the Constitution that is under discussion providing that a Governor shall under no circumstances be be eligible for re-election.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

The National Trait of Generosity as Illustrated by Little Children Toward Their Companions

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

OUT in the open it is hot—burning, sizzling, scorching hot! There is no equivocation about it. It is hot as—well, as a furnace! The thermometer is well above the hundred mark and the rays of the sun scorch and burn as only they can and do in a region for the most part desert in character. But while the heat is intense—you can cook eggs in the sand if you will—and it is positive cruelty to animals to force your saddle horse to wade through it at midday—its effects upon the human sensibilities do not compare in any manner as to bodily discomfort, mental distress or even danger, with what is too often the case in supposedly more favored regions. The atmosphere is so devoid of humidity, so nearly without appreciable moisture, that the deleterious effects of extreme heat are far less than are experienced in a temperature of twenty degrees less but in a location nearer large bodies of water or with more vegetation.

Away from the direct rays of the sun—as, for example, in the grateful shade of the chinaberry tree which was "El Gringo's" favorite point of observation—it is by comparison cool and comfortable. Not a single ardent ray from the super-ardent sun penetrates the dense shadows. A gentle breeze stirs the vegetation of tree, shrub and plant, and brings the grateful odor of the plaza flowers to the nostrils. It serves also to keep cool the body, clad in as few and as flimsy garments as is consistent with the ordinary observances of tropical society—no, not society that is tropical, but a society of the tropics! The streets are deserted by man and beast—or, at least, all those to the manner born. Perchance some stranger—some "tonto" (fool)—may be seen venturing into the blaze of the mid-afternoon sun; but those who are wise remain under shelter, either of house, tree or vine.

It is almost mid-afternoon. The sun is well below the meridian. School "takes in" at three o'clock, and from various directions come the little ones thither bound. It is near the close of the siesta hour, and the children have the streets practically to themselves. From every point come the boys and the girls—there is but one educational institution in the town, though a spacious one, surrounded by experimental gardens where the young ideas are taught how to dig as well as to shoot. They keep closely in the shade of house and tree, and take advantage of every shred of protection from the sun's still oppressive rays. They are in no hurry. Nothing short of a wild animal could persuade them to move faster than at the proverbial snail's pace—as will be shown in another pleasing little experience that once befell the gatherers in the plaza.

Here, too, wise in the devices of his occupation, comes the ice-cream peddler. Well he establishes himself and his cart-supported knows who are his best customers, and he freezer of delicious coolness in the dense shade of a cluster of great trees at a point of juncture where troops of children from three different thoroughfares converge. Well he knows how tempting are his evanescent and, to tell the truth, somewhat doubtful wares (as regards cleanliness and component parts) in the tropical, torrid heat of a tropical and torrid mid-afternoon. And well he knows how to charm the ultimate centavo from the ultimate pocket of the ultimate kidlet, be it male or female.

It is interesting to watch the affair. Here comes a little ten-year-old girl—pretty as a picture, a great deal prettier than some pictures—with a bevy of dear friends—pretty ones—very dear ones, as it proves—dear indeed! They have learned in some manner, more or less occult with the occultism of childhood, that their fortunate companion has become possessed (how they care not) in some way of the large sum of five or ten centavos. The little capitalist—just like a grown-up one—has in consequence a superabundance of friends, though in this case it is not fair to fancy that it is only the possession of comparative wealth that causes the less fortunate ones to group themselves around her and accompany her schoolward—also ice-cream-ward!

Straight to the ice-cream peddler marches the little squad of feminine humanity. The youthful leader makes known her desires, which, strangely enough, appear to be in exact accord with the desires of her companions—if eyes can express desire. The dealer ladles out a generous portion—a heaping saucerful of frosty, tempting, appetizing sweetness. The little ones form a circle about the capitalist, the light of expectancy in their eyes, and looking for all the world like a nest full of birdlings waiting with open mouths the food that they know will be supplied by their parents. The capitalistic investor in frozen delightfulness proceeds straightway to apportion the delicious morsels—a spoonful at a time. The first spoonfuls are generous and heaping. Then by reason of the rapid diminution of the parent supply they become smaller and smaller. The generous-minded little distributor glances at the remaining open-mouthed ones, gauges the amount of ice cream that is left, and manages to make it go around, just go around, leaving no one unsupplied except her own dear little generous self! Alas and alack, when her own turn comes the plate is empty—as empty as that of the fabled Jack Spratt and his wife. The last melted drop has disappeared into the mouths of her associates, and she has had never a taste! Just the proverbial smell is all that falls to her lot!

Her smile is brave, though perhaps a bit rueful! There is really nothing to be said. The rest of the party, like herself, are "stone broke." So the little bankrupt capitalist returns the saucer and spoon to the peddler and trudges sturdily off toward the school, not indicating in any visible act that she felt disappointment or regret at having been so ultragenerous. Her own enjoyment at witnessing the enjoyment of her little playmates was apparently as great as it would have been had she devoured the entire dish of ice cream herself without outside assistance.

So, too, with the boys as well as the girls. Many a time, sitting at one side and out of observation, I have seen the little kiddies gather about one of their number who was the possessor of some candy, cake, fruit, or other delectable morsel. Many a time have I seen the possessor break off pieces and pass them around until the whole had been given away and he or she had not a morsel left for their own delectation.

It is in truth a pretty sight—a testimonial of the most convincing character as to the innate unselfishness of the people. And many a time I have said to myself: "I wonder how long I would have to wait before I saw children of any other nationality give such spontaneous exhibitions of generosity and unselfishness." I wonder! Or rather, I do not!

And this beautiful trait is not confined to the children by any means. Grown-ups are just as generous, not only with luxuries but with necessaries as well.

They will divide their last morsel of food with some one who is hungry. While food was scarce in Mexico City I saw a small roll handed to a peon who was eyeing a basketful of bread with the expression of a starving animal. He took it hastily, started to put it to his mouth, then turned to another peon equally hungry-looking and said, "Here—you are hungrier than I," at the same time giving him three-fourths of the morsel, and retaining only a mouthful for himself. A family may be seated at a meal which is scanty enough for them, but if a hungry person chances by, even though he be a total stranger, he will be invited in the heartiest manner to share in the food.

If there is any one thing that Mexicans are not, it is being greedy where food or delicacies are concerned.

Recent quotations of food articles as published in the local press of Mexico City are as follows: Meat, per pound, 18½ cents gold; beans, 6½ cents; coffee, 16 cents; rice, 4½ cents; lard, 36 cents; garbanzas, 8¼ cents.

A number of owners of large haciendas in the State of Mexico have offered to turn over their property to the Government for allotment to those desiring to cultivate it free of charge, the only condition being that no buildings or other improvements shall be injured and the machinery used shall be maintained in good condition.

The railroad employes centering in San Luis Potosi, one of the leading railway centers, have under way a proposition for the establishment of a system for supplying them with the necessaries of life at moderate cost. It is proposed to have branches in each town where employes of the railways reside, and thus to materially reduce the expense of living.

Specious Plea for Intervention

"The Mexican Problem," a Book abounding in Misrepresentation and Misstatement Concerning Mexico

THE most recent contribution on Mexico to the book world is entitled "The Mexican Problem," written by C. W. Barron, "Manager of the Wall Street Journal, Boston News Bureau and Philadelphia News Bureau." It is of interest, since it is plainly the work of a special pleader advancing under the thin guise of benevolence and humanity, what arguments can be mustered on behalf of intervention by the United States in Mexico's social, industrial and political affairs, although this is explicitly disclaimed, but is plainly evident when read between the lines.

The author declares that he went to Mexico to study the problems of that country. From a perusal of the book it is evident that he must have devoted several weeks, perhaps a month or two at the outside, to the task; that he visited but a limited portion of the country—the Tampico region—and returned with a store of misinformation to be expected from so casual an "investigation."

The first point worthy of attention is the land question, since the author declares that as the result of his investigation he discovered that the popular idea, held by himself as well as by most Americans, was erroneous, and that "the land question is not at the bottom of the Mexican trouble." He also says: "The Mexican peon is not thirsty for land." "All attempts to give land on shares or in fee simple to natives who could cultivate it have been failures." "Land is cheap in Mexico and to be had almost for the asking."

It would be difficult to compress in a few sentences a greater amount of misinformation than those quoted. That the agrarian question *is* at the bottom of the Mexican trouble has been demonstrated so often by capable investigators who have devoted years to the study of the situation, it is so plain to those who have followed the Revolution, that it is difficult to understand how any intelligent man can at this late date combat the undoubted fact.

The prime reason for Madero's phenomenal success, amazing even to his own friends, was that he promised the peones land reform. The prime reason for his sudden loss of popularity was because he found himself unable to fulfill his promises—not because of any lack of intention or desire on his part, but because he was hampered by those who were determined that the pledge should not be kept.

The sole and only reason why Zapata rebelled against Madero was because the poor Morelos Indians whom he controlled had believed that the triumph of the Madero revolution meant the restoration of their lands inside of a dozen days, or a month's time at the outside, after his success. Finding that this was not done—could not be done—they simply took the lands, dispossessed a dozen or so, mostly non-residents, who had monopolized the entire State of Morelos, and have since cultivated those lands and kept out all interlopers. When they shall be assured in the possession of their lands there will be no more trouble in that region.

Whether the land question lies at the foundation of the troubles in other portion of Mexico or not, it certainly does in Morelos.

When the Constitutionalists began their opposition to the usurper, Huerta, recognizing the fact that land hunger lay at the basis of the nation-wide dissatisfaction and unrest and that Madero had been unable to fulfill his promises in this respect, they pledged themselves to return the community lands which had been stolen from the peones, and at the first opportunity began to carry out this work. The Revolution was not six months old before community lands in Durango, Tamaulipas, Sinaloa and Sonora had been returned to their grateful owners at their urgent request, or without waiting for it, while other lands had been expropriated and allotted to the poor in Tamaulipas and elsewhere.

If the author of "The Mexican Problem" could have been with the writer when he interviewed the poor peones to whom community lands were allotted in Durango in 1913; could have seen the joy in their faces, the pride with which they pointed to their pitiful huts built of stone, old brick, scraps of sheet iron, bits of second hand lumber and what not; the crops of corn, beans, chile and other vegetables growing in their gardens, he would have realized something of the land hunger at the hearts of the Mexican peones, the happiness with which they regarded the bit of land which had been allotted to them by the revolutionists, and the freedom which had thus been accorded them from life long slavery.

From that first commencement the work went steadily forward. Even while the outcome of the Revolution was in serious doubt and while the seat of government was at Vera Cruz, a comprehensive agrarian plan was promulgated and put into operation for the purpose of carrying out the prime cause of the revolutionary movement started by Madero—restoration of land to the peon owners. From that moment the work went steadily and energetically forward. At the outset a National Agrarian Commission was appointed to handle the land question, but it found itself so overwhelmed with applications that it was necessary to appoint local commissions in each State. These commissions have worked and are working persistently and energetically in this direction, and the mere official records of what has been done in the way of the restoration of former community lands; petitions for the setting apart of others, with the orders regarding this work, would fill a volume many times larger than that dealt with here. If the peones are not land hungry and will not take lands when offered them, then why this volume of petitions, this insistent demand from all parts of the Republic for land? Why this demonstration of land hunger, and why the eagerness with which the land is accepted?

The writer is in regular receipt of daily newspapers from Mexico City, and since the final occupation of that place in the summer of 1915 and the permanent establishment of the government there, those papers have published volumes of official reports regarding the restoration and allotment of lands to the peones that, as stated, would fill quadruple the entire printed space of "The Mexican Problem."

A further example of the misleading character of many of the assertions in this volume is the one advanced twice in the preface by Prof. Talcott Williams, and given in the body of the work by the author. This is that "Mexico to-day has cartridges for currency." "Cartridges are Mexico's popular legal tender to-day." "When the Mexican soldier finds Carranza money will not buy food he buys provisions with government cartridges." "Cartridges are currency in Mexico."

It would have been interesting if the one responsible for these absurd statements had given specific instances in support of them. The writer during his experience of over three years with the various Constitutionalist armies as a newspaper correspondent in all portions of the country, heard rumors on occasion that cartridges were being exchanged for supplies—usually liquor—but careful observation of the market places and other points of barter never in all that time disclosed a single such instance. It may have been and doubtless was occasionally true during the stress of the campaign. Many things occur under such conditions which are not true as a rule and which no candid writer will hold up as indicative of general conditions.

But any one who has been in Mexico during the year 1917 or who has knowledge of the march of events in that period must know full well that there has been no "Carranza paper" in circulation within that year. During the latter part of 1916 and the first months of 1917 the Carranza paper went entirely out of circulation and its place was taken by solid gold and silver. Around Tampico and in Mexico City it is true there is some American paper in circulation, and occasionally one may see a bank note, but of national paper there has been and is none in circulation among the people. Soldiers are paid in coin and they are the best paid soldiers in the world to-day. Yet the author of "The Mexican Problem" and his misled sponsor, Prof. Talcott Williams, would give people to understand that the popular and generally used currency in Mexico City to-day—July, 1917, is the date of the book—is rifle cartridges. That is the plain and only inference to be drawn by the average reader from their assertions in this respect, and which are unqualified in any manner.

Really this sample misstatement is almost too absurd to merit notice, but attention is paid to it—if for no other purpose than to emphasize the fact that neither the author nor his sponsor was apparently willing to tell the public the truth about the actual currency in universal use in Mexico to-day—gold and silver!

Possibly they were not aware of this not altogether unimportant fact! If they were aware of it, their neglect to refer to it in any manner may reasonably be regarded as proof of the character of other statements that are wide of the truth or ignore it altogether, and it is assuredly not a flattering testimonial to their candidness.

Still another striking example of the erroneous character of many of the statements in the volume is that with regard to the oil tax. It is declared that a decree was issued from Mexico City "more than doubling taxes on oil." "By a national decree, from May 1, 1917, all companies must pay about 11 cents per barrel export taxes, or nearly 20 per cent. of the gross value of the crude oil as exported."

Before the issuance of the decree referred to, export oil paid a straight tax of practically 6 cents per barrel. It was suggested that a fairer method would be to assess the tax upon the valuation rather than the quantity, and for this purpose, after consultation with the great oil operators, the decree referred to, which went into effect May 1, 1917, assessed the tax at 10 per cent. ad valorem, according to the density of the oil. The valuation was taken by an average of sales for a term of months and placed at $5, $8.50 and $11 per ton respectively, as to density and quality. The tax thus varied from 50 cents to $1.10 per ton Mexican money, or practically half that in American currency. Only a small portion of the oil is of the higher value, so while the average valuation would be $8.16 per ton and the tax 81.6 cents, in reality it is much less on the bulk of the exportations. But taking the average of 81.6 cents Mexican money on a ton, this would equal a little over 40 cents American currency. Official statistics of exportations give an average of seven barrels to the metric ton of 2,200 pounds, so that the actual tax per barrel is 5.7 cents American currency instead of the 11 cents alleged in this volume. Therefore, instead of "doubling the tax on oil," as stated, it was placed at practically the same rate as before, and instead of a tax of 11 cents per barrel, it is really only a trifle over half of that; and instead of the tax being 20 per cent. on the value of the oil, it is really only 7½, as can be demonstrated from the author's own figures. He states that the value of the oil varies from 60 to 90 cents per barrel in Tampico and that the leading concern in oil exportation sold its entire production in 1916 at "a little over 83 cents per barrel." It is thus seen that instead of 20 per cent. (which would be 16.6 cents per barrel), being collected on the value of the oil, a little over one-third is the actual collection. A tax of 5.7 per barrel is not 20 per cent. of the valuation of the oil, neither is it confiscatory nor a grievous burden, as any fair minded man must concede.

Space forbids further attention in detail to the errors of statement in the volume, some of the most glaring having been pointed out and refuted. To consider them all as they deserve and present accurate pictures of conditions in Mexico would require a volume far greater than that of Mr. Barron. Just in passing, however, it might be remarked that the author's charges regarding the alleged suppression of news of affairs in Mexico sounds very strange indeed to those who for four years and more have perused the reports from El Paso and other border points, reciting all sorts of sensational occurrences, the greater portion of which had no existence except in the fertile imagination of the space writing correspondents who passed them off upon a credulous press, apparently all too eager to publish anything discreditable to Mexico and decidedly loath to publish the truth even when offered to it. Mr. Barron recites an example of what he calls suppression of news in the case of a train that was attacked by bandits a few months ago between Laredo and Mexico City. Yet if he had been well posted, as he should have been before making the charge, he would have known that this very story was sent out broadcast from the border and published all over the United States.

The author's plea all through the work is for intervention—"benevolent intervention," if you please, but intervention all the same! "The Mexican is simply in need of a strong helping hand!" he declares. Too well the Mexican knows what that "strong helping hand" would mean! His recollection of that "helping hand" in 1847—that hand that helped itself to such a large share of the territory of his country—is too vivid to allow him to place much dependence upon the disinterested character of the help that he would receive.

In the preface we read: "The United States just a half century ago saved Mexico from the foreign invader. To-day Mexico must be saved from the internal destroyer. One task was accomplished without invasion, the other may be. Accomplished it must be. Moral responsibilities know no boundary lines."

Just so! But both Mr. Barron and Mr. Williams show little enough comprehension of the Mexican character, their pride of country and of nationality, their sensitiveness to foreign interference in any direction, to believe that *any kind of intervention*, whether in the guise of benevolence or on the score of moral responsibility (the old "New England conscience" again, that persuades a man to believe that he has a right to regulate his neighbor's affairs according to his own peculiar ideas and without regard to that neighbor's rights), would not be met with a unanimous, a determined, a bloody, perhaps indeed a useless resistance, or that any 40,000 men would suffice to restore order in Mexico, as Mr. Barron so fatuously declares.

Was there ever a nation that set deliberately about despoiling a neighbor, or even one on the opposite side of the world, that did not find an excuse in "moral responsibility?" And that responsibility, while some of its advocates might be in fact sincere enough, was merely made to cloak for despoliation and profit. "No man is good enough to govern another man," said the immortal Lincoln, and equally no nation is good enough to govern another nation. That is the opinion held in Mexico, at all events.

Mr. Barron says: "The Mexican problem is the problem of one civilization and one order, one rule and procedure, in contact with another civilization, another order, procedure and morality."

Very well! By what right does one nation seek to impose its ideas of civilization, of order, of rule, of procedure upon another nation, which regards its own civilization, its own order, its own procedure, its own morality as quite equal in many respects, perhaps indeed superior in some, to those of the antagonistic nation, and which are at all events satisfactory to itself?

Just the right of might—that is all!

That is the way Mexico regards it, and will always regard it, and will resist the proposed imposition of another's ideas to the bitter end

And the Mexican nation, whether justly or not, regards all this solicitude for its civilization, its order, its procedure, its morality, with a suspicious eye. It regards the incomparable and but partially developed wealth of its country as the real consideration, and is firmly persuaded that if its country were not so wealthy, did not offer such a tempting field for exploitation, so rich a reward, were not so accessible, there would be scant talk of consideration for the improvement of its people! With good reason Mexicans are suspicious of the much vaunted altruistic motives of would-be interventionists under whatever guise they appear—whether they are based upon "moral responsibility" or plain greed for gain!

RAILWAY EARNINGS INCREASING

Improvement in railroad conditions in Mexico is reflected in a statement of earnings of the Constitutionalist Railways of Mexico for the first three weeks of August. These earnings show traffic, both freight and passenger, increased substantially over the July business.

Total earnings in the first three weeks of August amounted to about $1,587,821, American money, or $3,195,643 in Mexican gold. This compares with July earnings of approximately $1,528,756 American money, or $3,059,512 Mexican gold.

The statement, as supplied by the Constitutionalist Railways, follows:

	1917. Approximate Aug. 1 to 21.	1917 Approximate July.	Increase
Freight	$1,482,680	$1,383,761	$98,919
Passenger	954,724	929,725	24,999
Express	709,972	699,563	10,409
Miscellaneous	48,267	46,463	1,804
Total	$3,195,643	$3,059,512	$136,131

Figures shown are in Mexican gold, which is worth about 50 cents, United States currency, on the dollar.

The Trainmen's, Conductors,' Engineers' and Firemen's unions of the city of Puebla have established a library and reading room in that place.

The National Board of Health has inaugurated measures for preventing typhus and other ailments that have prevailed from time immemorial in the capital city during the winter months.

After much study and careful preparation the agrarian law in conformity with the new constitution has been drawn up and will be submitted to Congress within a short time.

A Land of Buried Treasure

Where One Can Surfeit Himself With Tales of Untold Hidden Wealth, Many Being Well Founded

WHEREVER one goes in Mexico—city, hamlet, country, mining camp, wilderness, desert or mountain—there is one subject of universal interest which the traveler can bring up with the certainty that he will at once let loose a flood of reminiscence, tradition, rumor and fact that is as intensely interesting as a large portion of it is ill founded. Beginning with the famous and by some regarded more or less problematical lost treasure of the Montezumas (though Prescott accepts the story as true), and coming down to the present day, the whole unwritten history of the country is replete with stories of hidden treasure. That this should be so and in such marked degree, that these multifarious stories should, in not a few cases, be well founded, is easily understood. It is only during the last few years, comparatively speaking, that the possessors of portable property in the way of jewels, coin, gems and what not, had any secure place for its bestowal when necessary for protection. There were no banks, the making of strong boxes or safes was in its infancy, and the only place for safekeeping was the ground, the thick adobe or stone wall, underneath the tile floor, or some recess or cave in the rocks. That large amounts of valuables were so hidden in the past is indisputable. It has been so in all countries, and especially in Mexico. That many hoards have been discovered at one time and another is also a fact. That many remain yet to be unearthed is a third fact. And that there are few foreigners who have visited the byways of Mexico who have been able to resist the glamorous lure of the buried treasure story is still another fact—the writer being among the majority.

The buried treasure of the Montezumas dates back to the time of Cortez, when that not at all gentle or Christian-like Christian gentleman, soldier of the Cross and conqueror permitted the deliberate roasting of Cuauhtemoc and one of his companions because they courageously and persistently refused to disclose the hiding place of the royal treasure, variously estimated at many millions of dollars in value. That they should have withstood such suffering in this cause seems ample proof of the actuality of the treasure itself.

Various and sundry persons have appeared from time to time and have claimed knowledge of the whereabouts of the hoard, and large sums have been expended in excavation and research, but so far without success.

At various times and in various localities there have been discoveries of hidden treasure which were well authenticated, although, since the Government is entitled under the law to one-half of all treasure trove that may be recovered, it is believed that there has been more than one discovery of the kind which was kept zealously from public knowledge. Indeed, searchers for treasure are as a rule very secretive as to their operations and the results achieved, whether successful or not.

Such, for example, was the treasure supposed and believed to have been found at a mining camp in the State of Durango only a few years ago. That region, having once been the favored haunt of bandits, as a result is permeated with rumors of treasure, usually ascribed to freebooters. In the case under discussion, grading was in progress for the erection of a building, a sandy hill being removed to make way for the foundations. Suddenly the peones employed all abandoned their task and hastened to another portion of the grounds. Their native foreman reported to the chief, a foreigner, that they had unearthed a coffin, or a portion of one, during their excavation, and were afraid to pursue their task further, all natives being very superstitious in this connection. The manager replied that he would investigate the matter, which he did later. Sure enough, projecting from the face of the excavation for a portion of its length was a box resembling in shape those designed for sepulture. With a pick this was further uncovered; then the lid was pried up, and what was disclosed led the manager to replace the boards in a hurry. Glancing around, he discovered the native foreman watching him, and felt assured from the expression on his countenance that he too had seen the contents of the box, which, so far from being human remains, were sacks containing coin and other valuables, as demonstrated by some of them having become broken open through decay. Quick decision was necessary on the part of the manager, and he decided to make the best of it, since there was no method for preserving secrecy. He told the native foreman to warn the laborers against approaching the spot or interfering with the "coffin"; that it was indeed what they supposed, and that in accordance with law they were forbidden to touch it until the authorities in the nearest town could be notified, which would not be until the following day. To the native foreman he said: "Keep your own counsel. Come with me to-night and I will pay you liberally. I will give you more money than you ever had in your life."

That night the two men went with a mule cart, emptied the contents of the box into sacks and carried them to the manager's residence. The latter kept his promise to the native, gave him several hundred dollars in coin—more than he had ever dreamed of having at one time in his entire life—and enjoined secrecy if he would keep out of the law's hands. This was pledged, but straightway the suddenly enriched peon proceeded to expend his mysteriously acquired wealth in riotous living, entertaining his friends with liquor and scattering the coin broadcast. When questioned as to the source of his prosperity he at first demurred, but later, when far gone under the influence of tequila, mescal, sotol, and such like delectable liquors of native manufacture, he divulged more or less of the tale that has been told.

But when the manager was approached, he denied the whole account as a fabrication and tried to laugh it off. Who would for a moment believe the story of a drunken native? What nonsense! There was no word of truth in it. His position prevented the authorities from taking any action, or if any was projected he was able to head it off, since all the local officials were subject to his despotic control.

After a while and the lapse of a certain extent of time to permit the story to die out, the supposed treasure discoverer found himself able from the supposed savings of his frugal earnings to purchase a fine ranch in the country, as also a town house, which he furnished most elegantly and maintained with little regard for expense, what time he proceeded to drink himself to death, which he managed to do with great success and considerable speed—not at all a difficult feat, by the way, in Mexico. Especially for a foreigner.

(Concluded next month)

AMERICAN SMELTING PROFITS GROW

The American Smelting and Refining Company announced in its report for the half year ended June 30th that for the first time in three years profits were coming in from its properties in Mexico. Partly due to income from Mexican sources, the net earnings from operations, amounting to $16,931,116, were $5,163,731 greater than in the same period of 1916. Revenue from interest, dividends, rents, etc., brought the aggregate income up to $18,757,899, from which a deduction of $8,555,779 was made by tax reservations, fixed charges, and depreciation.

The final net income amounted to $10,202,119, a decrease of $943,573. The recession was brought about chiefly by extraordinary reservations for excess profits taxes, and depletion of ore reserves. The management set aside $3,889,561 to meet all taxes, an increase of $3,778,537, while the depreciation and ore depletion account of $2,396,173 was $1,376,684 larger than in the first half of the preceding year. After meeting dividends a balance of $5,165,070 remained, which was $1,477,888 less than a year before.

In respect to the Mexican situation, President Daniel Guggenheim said:

"All the mines and smelters in Mexico owned by the company are now operating, except those at or adjacent to Chihuahua, and those at Velardeña. Work is carried on under many difficulties and to a limited extent as yet. The Government of Mexico is most anxious to have the company succeed, and laborers are more than willing to work. They are suffering, however, to even a greater extent, comparatively, than in the United States on account of the high cost of living. It is estimated that the cost of necessities in Mexico is at the present time six times greater than during the period preceding the revolution. This however is being alleviated.

LATE NEWS NOTES

The first Labor Congress ever held in the State of Guanajuato met in the city of Leon recently. There were represented unions of the various branches of industry and many important measures for the amelioration of conditions were discussed and decided upon.

Instructions have been issued that establishments employing large numbers of working people will not be allowed to close their doors peremptorily, but must give thirty days' notice of such intention, or otherwise must pay each employe one month's wages in lieu of notice.

The Government of the State of Oaxaca has established schools in all sections wherever needed, and has also opened night schools in the capital city, which are attended by large numbers of adults of both sexes who are occupied during the day with gaining a livelihood.

Official reports from the State of Nayarit (formerly Tepic Territory) are to the effect that the crops have been abundant and there will be a surplus for shipment to other sections, as in the past. That portion of Mexico has uniformly good crops of all kinds.

The Agricultural Congress of the State of Jalisco has taken steps to encourage the farmers to increase the acreage of corn for the coming season, in order to meet the shortage caused by the unseasonable frosts. Seed will be furnished and instructions given for the best methods of cultivation.

Numerous projects for the construction of wagon roads in various portions of the Republic are under consideration and will be carried out. Among others, is a highway connecting the City of Mexico with El Paso, via Torreon, Chihuahua and many of the leading cities in the central portion of the country.

Large quantities of the old banknotes issued by institutions that are in process of liquidation have been burned by the Monetary Commission intrusted with such matters. The same disposition has also been made of many millions of the "infalsificable" issue, which are received by the national treasury as a sur-tax on certain exports and imports.

A party of seventy gypsies who recently arrived in Mexico from the United States have been apprehended and will be deported. They claim to belong to Austria-Hungary, and the Minister from that government has undertaken to see that they are embarked at Tampico for their former homes, not being regarded as desirable acquisitions in Mexico because of the manner in which they gain their livelihood, their practices being contrary to law in many respects.

In order to facilitate the production of largely increased crops of cotton the government has recently acquired one hundred tractors which will be utilized for the cultivation of large areas of lands in the Laguna region of the States of Coahuila and Durango, that being the center of production. Much land hitherto uncultivated will be brought into use. In many portions of the Republic tractors are being introduced at the instance of the Department of Agriculture for the encouragement of farmers to imitate the examples thus set.

Interesting Trade Statistics

The imports at New York from Mexico for the month of August, 1917, were $2,830,730, as compared to $1,616,464 for the same month in 1916.

The estimated production of copper in Mexico for the past four years is as follows: 1913, 58,000 metric tons; 1914, 36,000 tons; 1915, 31,000 tons; 1916, 55,000 tons. In 1914 there were imported into the United States from Mexico 19,135,072 pounds of copper ore, valued at $2,312,002; 1915, 12,189,464 pounds, valued at $1,482,998; in 1916, 24,181,113 pounds, valued at $4,166,603, and in 1917, 37,440,255 pounds, valued at $9,341,830.

Of copper pigs and ingots there were imported from Mexico in 1914, 86,143,237 pounds, valued at $12,145,484; in 1915, 6,488,108 pounds, valued at $836,429; in 1916, 48,007,170 pounds, valued at $9,970,998; in 1917, 58,079,235 pounds, valued at $15,084,086.

The government of the State of Tamaulipas has notified all proprietors of haciendas, etc., in all portions of the State that they must comply with the provisions of the law and establish schools for the education of all children within their vicinage.

A special commission has been appointed to allot to those desiring it lands in the State of Sonora of which use is not made by the owners. Each applicant will be allowed twenty-four acres and will be entitled to the entire product of the tract.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

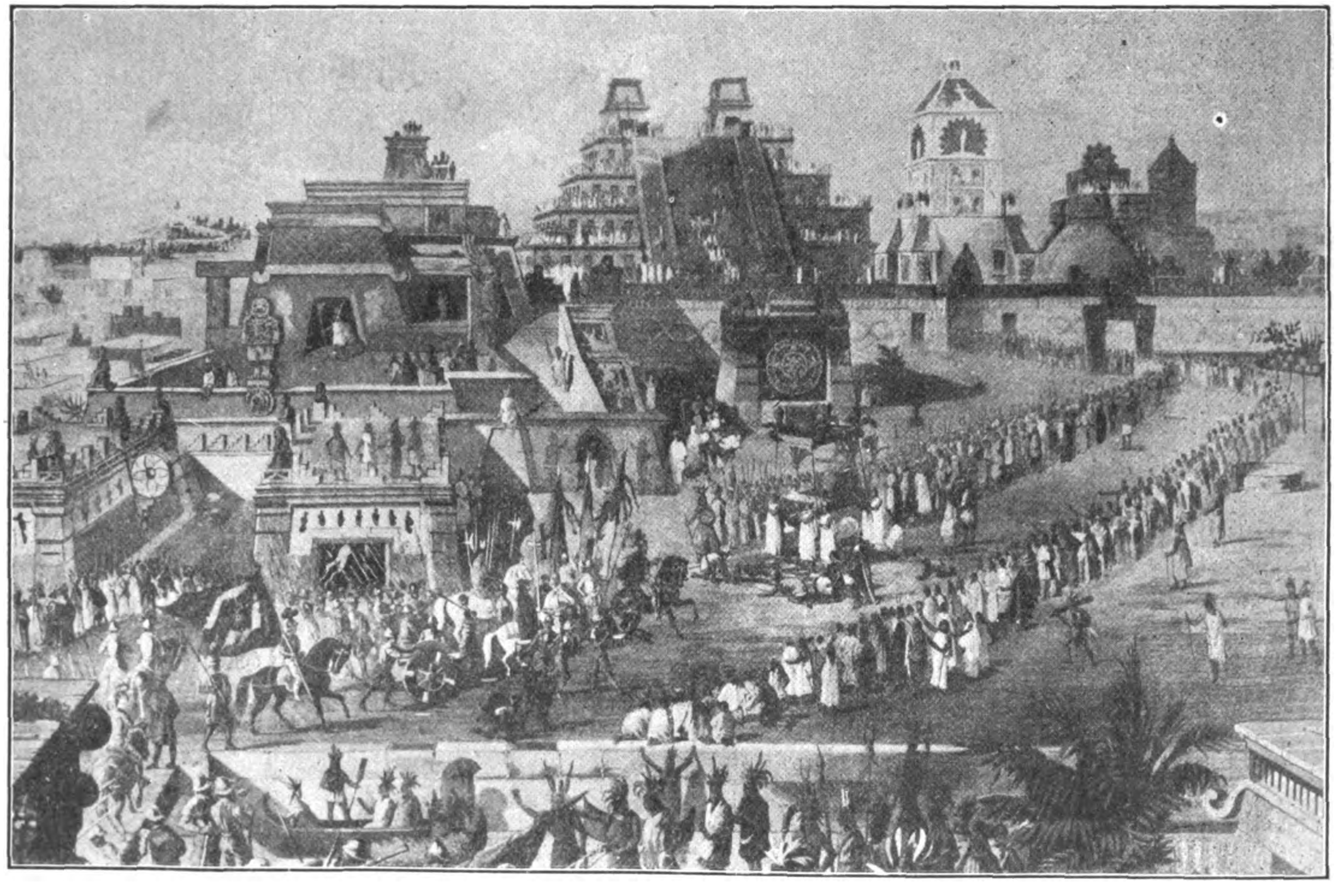
Truth About Food Situation

[illegible] SOTA,

Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO
THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE
AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT
TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS
BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE
CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT
· OF · THE ·
REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

VOL. II WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER, 1917. NO. 3



Mexico City at the Time of the Conquest

TEN CENTS THE COPY

A Mexican Christmas

The Food Situation in Mexico

President Carranza Makes an Emphatic Denial of the Sensational False Reports Published in this Country

DURING the preceding month certain maliciously false reports were given circulation in the United States regarding the food situation in Mexico. It was stated that:

"At least 5,000,000 Mexicans will starve to death in the next few months unless the United States comes to the rescue in some manner or other. Corn is as high as $10 gold per bushel. The people are beginning to starve. By another month there will be famine."

It was also stated that at least one hundred million bushels of corn would be needed within the next few months in order to save from starvation millions of the Mexican people, and that it would be necessary for the United States to go to the rescue.

These reports received such wide credence that it was deemed proper to acquaint President Carranza with them, and he replied in the following terse and emphatic manner:

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM.

353A AN 5I GDH AND HR VIA GALVESTON

CHAS. A. DOUGLAS.

CARE MEXICAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON:

SU CABLEGRAMA FECHADA ANTIER ES FALSO QUE LA ESCASEZ DE VIVERSE EN LA REPUBLICA AMENACE OCASIONAR LA MUERTE POR HAMBRE A PERSONAS DE ESTE PAIS. AFORTUNADAMENTE LAS NOTICIAS ALARMANTES QUE PUBLICA LA PRENSA DE ESTADOS UNIDOS NO MATARAN A NADIE. PUES YA ES CONOCIDO EL FIN QUE LAS INSPIRA. SALUDOLE AFECTUOSAMENTE.

V. CARRANZA.

8.IOPM.

MEXICO CITY, *November* 6.

MR. CHARLES A. DOUGLAS,
Care Mexican Ambassador, Washington:

Your cable of the 4th received. *It is false that the scarcity of foodstuffs in the Republic threatens to cause death by starvation to people of this country.* Fortunately the alarming news published by the press of the United States will not kill anybody, as the purpose from which it derives its inspiration is well known. Kind regards.

V. CARRANZA.

The foregoing was sent in reply to a telegram from Mr. Douglas, the legal adviser of the Mexican Government in this city, at the time of the publication of the false and sensational reports referred to.

Details Regarding the Food Situation

Mexican Ambassador Bonillas also authorized the publication of the following details regarding the matter:

Owing to the short rainfall and early frosts, the corn crop in the *Central Plateau Region only* has been short. The coast corn belts on both the Atlantic and Pacific have produced the usual abundant yield. The transportation of corn from the west coast is a difficult and slow process, owing to the absence of railways. The same facts apply to much of the eastern coast. It is necessary, therefore, to purchase supplies in the United States which can be readily shipped over either of the four lines of railway crossing the border.

The embargo levied by the United States against shipping grain without permit to any foreign country operated to the disadvantage of Mexico in this respect. All that was asked of the United States was that it raise that embargo to a limited extent, and this has already been done by the Government. A committee appointed by the Mexican National Commercial Congress is now in the United States and is purchasing corn and paying cash for it, the entire amount needed being the merest fraction of that stated in the sensational reports.

The widely published statement that "100,000,000 bushels will be needed to keep 5,000,000 people from death by starvation" has *no foundation in fact.* Mexico is *not asking aid of any kind* to care for the needy. It is merely asking permission to go into the open market, pay cash for grain, and ship it wherever needed. The Government itself will dispose of this corn to consumers at actual cost, and would even distribute it free where it is needed.

The latest market reports from Mexico City disclose the fact that corn is selling at retail in that city at an average price equivalent to $2.57 per bushel American gold. A prominent Washington dealer in grain states that the wholesale price of corn in this city is about $2.40 per bushel and the retail price $2.50, or but a trifle less than the Mexican price.

It is also interesting to note that the prices for other necessaries of life in Mexico compare quite favorably with those in this country. For example: Beans are 20 cents per pound here, 6.9 cents there; flour, 10 cents here, 7½ there; rice, 12 cents here, 9.2 cents there; coffee, 9.2 cents in Mexico; corn, 4.6 cents in Mexico; garbanzas (chick peas), 5½ cents in Mexico; habas (field beans), 4.6 cents per pound. Meat is from one-third to one-half the price in Mexico that it is in the United States.

That there is any prospect for wholesale starvation is not true, while the unqualified assertion that "five million Mexicans will starve to death" (practically one-third the total population) is too absurd to merit further attention than to point out its absurdity.

There has scarcely ever been a season for the past twenty years and more that it has not been necessary to import corn, wheat, beans and other food products from abroad to meet the demands of home consumption. It is true, the corn crop of the season just closing has been short, as stated, but the national and local authorities have the situation well in hand and are prepared to cope with conditions to the fullest, without outside assistance except the privilege of importing the grain that it purchases, such permission being necessary under the food regulations now in force in the United States. Any talk about wholesale starvation is, as stated, absurd and betrays a woeful ignorance of facts.

"There Exists No Danger from Crop Shortage"

Under the above title the press of Mexico City publishes the official announcement that the Director General of Agriculture is in receipt of reports from all portions of the Republic to the effect that the crops already harvested have as a rule been good and the second crop promises to be of an average. The Chambers of Agriculture of various States continue to give good reports of the crop prospects. These refer not only to corn, but to wheat, beans, potatoes, garbanzas, etc.

The National Government has given instructions to the Governors of all States to take measures to put all uncultivated lands into crops. In many portions of the Republic the planting season will soon commence and it is promised that the instructions of the Government will be followed. Lands that are not cultivated by their owners will be allotted to all applicants with permission to produce crops without paying rental.

Further Light on the Food Situation

The freights on necessaries of life that are imported into the Republic have been decreased 50 per cent as an aid to the people.

Steamers are arriving in Vera Cruz bringing large cargoes of food supplies of various kinds from Spain and Cuba, with the result that prices have materially lowered therefor.

The first result of the proposed importation of corn from the United States to Mexico was to cause the speculators in the capital city to reduce their prices over 33 1/3 per cent.

In the city of Pachuca, one of the largest mining camps in the Republic, the prices of corn and beans are established at the equivalent of 4 6/10 cents per pound, or $2.57 and $2.76 per bushel, respectively.

Reports from the State of Nayarit (formerly Tepic) are that crops of all kinds in that section are very good, especially that of beans, and that there will be a surplus for export to other portions of the Republic.

The National Government has been asked to permit the importation of rice free of duty in order to combat the exorbitant prices that many dealers are imposing upon that necessary article of food. The petition will probably be granted.

All merchants in the City of Mexico now report daily to the municipal authorities the prices asked by them for the prime necessaries of life, and these are published in the press for the guidance of consumers in selecting establishments to patronize.

A large quantity of corn has been contracted for by the city officials of Mexico, to be shipped from the State of Jalisco, where the crops have been abundant, at a price equivalent to $1.25 per bushel American gold. This will be sold to consumers at cost.

The Government of the State of Puebla has arranged to secure large quantities of corn from the interior, where the crops have been abundant, and to supply the people of the capital city with it at a very low rate. It is expected to furnish it at about one-half the present price.

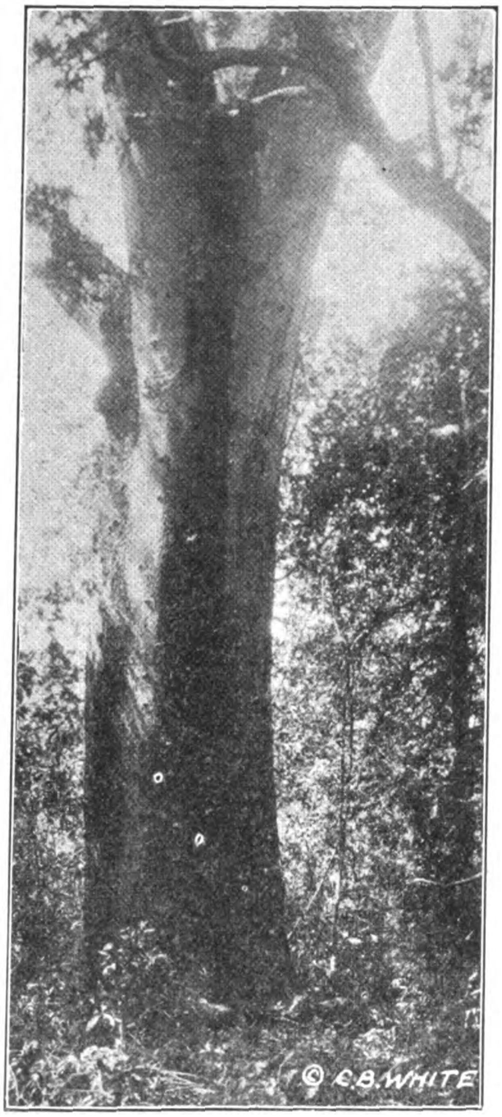
In a single day recently there arrived in Mexico City 117 carloads of food and other supplies, while in eight days there was a total of 650 carloads of similar character received. This is only regarded as notable in view of the false reports published in the foreign press regarding railroad matters in the Republic.

A number of grain dealers of the State of Oaxaca have offered a large quantity of grain of home production at very moderate prices. The authorities in Mexico City have arranged to secure large amounts of sugar which will be sold to the people at much less than the exorbitant rate demanded by many dealers.

Steps are being taken to materially reduce the price of fish in Mexico City. This is regulated by foreign speculators, but the Government will co-operate with the fishermen in Vera Cruz to supply consumers at much less than the rates now prevailing. The middlemen have been reaping exorbitant profits, to the damage of both consumer and producer, and this will now be remedied.

Authoritative reports from the State of Tamaulipas are to the effect that while the early corn crop was very short, owing to the absence of the usual summer rains, the second or fall crop is exceptionally abundant—more so than for years past. The total is estimated at 1,500,000 bushels for the entire State, which is more than twice the average home consumption, leaving 900,000 bushels to be shipped to other portions of the country. At present, though there is more or less scarcity, owing to the cause noted, the retail price varies from about $2.10 to $2.55 per bushel in American money, which will be materially reduced as soon as the fall crop is marketed.

The Treasury Department has arranged for the assignment of 200 freight cars from the National Railways, which will be used for transportation of the corn purchased by Mexico in the United States. Much of this corn will be taken to Mexico City, where it will be disposed of by the authorities at very low prices. Purchasers will be limited to the amount which they may obtain daily commensurate with their needs. The Mexican railway operating between Mexico City and Vera Cruz has placed all of its rolling stock at the disposal of those handling grain and other foods imported to Vera Cruz from other points. Large quantities are being received from Havana. Seven locomotives and a large number of freight cars have just been turned out from the shops of this company, in addition to the rolling stock already in service.



Guanacasta Tree

Canoes 60 Feet Long by 6 Feet Beam, Are Made From Single Logs

Trade Between the United States and Mexico

Mexican Ambassador Bonillas is in receipt of the following telegram from Assistant Secretary Nieto, of the Department of the Treasury:

"MEXICO CITY, *October* 23, 1917.

"Referring to your cable of twentieth, please state to press what follows: The situation in Mexico as consequence of the European war concentrated entirely the commerce of Mexico with United States. While the United States did not enter the conflict, the financial and commercial situation in Mexico suffered in part only, as regards exports to Germany, chiefly coffee, tobacco, dye woods and fodder. The entrance of United States into the war has caused a noteworthy dislocation in Mexican commerce, not as much as regards exports, which continue with some regularity, but chiefly because of restrictions imposed by the United States to its export commerce. While Mexico ships to the United States petroleum, metals, copper, zinc, antimony and other metals indispensable for the manufacture of war material, and sisal hemp, guayule, hides, skins and cattle; on the other hand the United States have greatly restricted the exportation of articles of first necessity for Mexico, and recently the exportation of gold and silver. Under such conditions Mexico has suffered greatly from the United States' restrictions, for it is generally thought that there should exist complete freedom of commerce between Mexico and the United States. Mexico needs principally to import from the United States wheat and flour, cotton, and cotton manufactures, machinery of all kinds, especially agricultural and mining, electrolytic copper in the shape of wire and cables, manufactured articles of iron and steel, railroad material and rolling stock, and mining exploitation material. Mexico would wish that such articles could be exported freely from the United States. Mexico proposes to uphold its present prohibitions regarding the exportation of certain articles of first necessity, but it is entirely disposed not to place any restriction to the exportation of petroleum and its by-products, sisal hemp, and other vegetable and mineral fibers, rubber, guayule, cattle and products, dye woods, fine woods and other tropical produce peculiar to Mexico, such as coffee, cocoa, chicle, etc.

"The general public opinion is to the effect that as Mexico has no way of trading with countries inimical to the United States, and being an adjacent neighbor of the United States, there is no reason whatever for placing into effect as regards Mexico the embargoes which have been decreed against European neutrals.

"RAFAEL NIETO,
"Assistant Secretary."

TOTAL DEBT OF THE REPUBLIC

The Section of the Treasury Department having charge of the public debt has issued a statement showing the entire bonded and interest indebtedness of the Republic. It amounts to a total of $423,646,605.22, or the equivalent of $211,823,302.61 in American gold. The interest upon the various bond issues, which varies from 3 to 5 per cent, and which has not been paid during the revolutionary period, amounts to $68,159,450.18, or the equivalent of $34,079,725.09 American gold. The total of bonded indebtedness and accrued interest is therefore $491,806,055.40, or $245,903,027.70 in American gold. This is at the ratio of about $15 per capita, which is far below the average of the other nations of the world.

The State of Chiapas

An Interesting and Exceptionally Picturesque Portion of the Republic on the Boundary of Guatemala

CHIAPAS is the most southern State in the Mexican republic, and presents an almost virgin field of unsurpassed natural resources. It is bounded on the north by the State of Tabasco, which separates it from the Gulf of Mexico, on the east by the Republic of Guatemala, on the south by the Pacific Ocean, and on the west by the States of Vera Cruz and Oaxaca.

The Sierra Madre mountains run almost parallel with the Pacific Ocean in their course through the State, there being between the two a stretch of level land which is uncommonly fertile, including the districts of Soconusco and Tonalá. North of these mountains, and exactly in the central section of the State, there are also fertile plains in the districts of La Libertad, Chiapa and Tuxtla, and in Comitán along the Guatemalan frontier; and, finally, along the boundary of Tabasco are situated the humid forest-plains of the districts of Pichucalco and Palenque. From the southern limits of these two districts and toward the center of the State the mountain slopes begin to rise, finding their extreme height in the district of Las Casas, whose county-seat is more than seven thousand feet above sea-level; but the coast range in its descent to the sea slopes more abruptly.

In the districts of Mezcalapa, Pichucalco, Simojovel, Chilón, Comitán and Palenque the landscape presents a picturesque undulating country, with ridges of mountains of moderate altitude, and traversed by numerous navigable streams, such as the Grijalva, Mezcalapa, Tapijulapa, El Salto, and Usumacinta. The number of rivers of lesser importance is very considerable, and Chiapas may be counted among the best watered States of Mexico. As there are no really low or swampy districts, the climate is healthy, and it is generally tempered by prevailing breezes from the gulf and the Pacific Ocean, which supply the atmospheric moisture favorable to plant life and give abundant rainfall.

The Pan-American Railway is the only line in the State. It runs between the Guatemala frontier at Mariscal (Ayutla) on the Suchiate River, and Gamboa in Oaxaca, through Tapachula and Tonalá; at Gamboa (San Geronimo) connection is made with the Tehuantepec National Railway for the rest of the Republic. A short branch from Tonalá leads to Puerto Arista.

Chiapas is divided politically into 13 Departments, with 122 Municipalities, which contain 7 cities, 14 towns, 159 villages, 998 organized estates, 3,614 hamlets and 3 colonies. The Departments are: Tuxtla Gutierrez, Comitan, Chiapa, Chilon, La Libertad, Las Casas, Mariscal, Mezcalapa, Palenque, Pichucalco, Simojovel, Soconusco, Tonalá.

Tuxtla Gutierrez is the capital, 1,115 kilometers (692 miles) from Mexico City, and 140 kilometers (87 miles) from the Pan-American Railway station of Jalisco, with which it is connected by a good wagon road, usable at times by automobile. It stands in the midst of an amazingly rich district, but the lack of rail communication has retarded the growth of both town and country. The capital is in telegraphic touch with the rest of the Republic, and has banks, hotels and good public buildings. Until 1892 San Cristobal was the capital of the State, and the city retains much of its attractiveness, with a theatre, cathedral, hospital, library and institute of arts and sciences. Other places of importance are Tonolá, a busy agricultural center; Tapachula, only a short distance from the frontier of Guatemala and therefore growing in commercial enterprise; and Zapaulta, the interior and only other custom-house on the southern border.

Coffee and Sugar Plantation in Chiapas

The general aspect of the country is very unlike that of Northern Mexico. Chiapas has no barren country except in the very highest parts of its mountains, the medium and lower regions generally being covered by forests of valuable woods, while its cultivated parts show fields of all kinds and abundance of crops.

Lake Tepencuapán, in the southern part, is eighteen miles long and three miles wide, and abounds in fish and water fowl. There are several smaller lakes in the State.

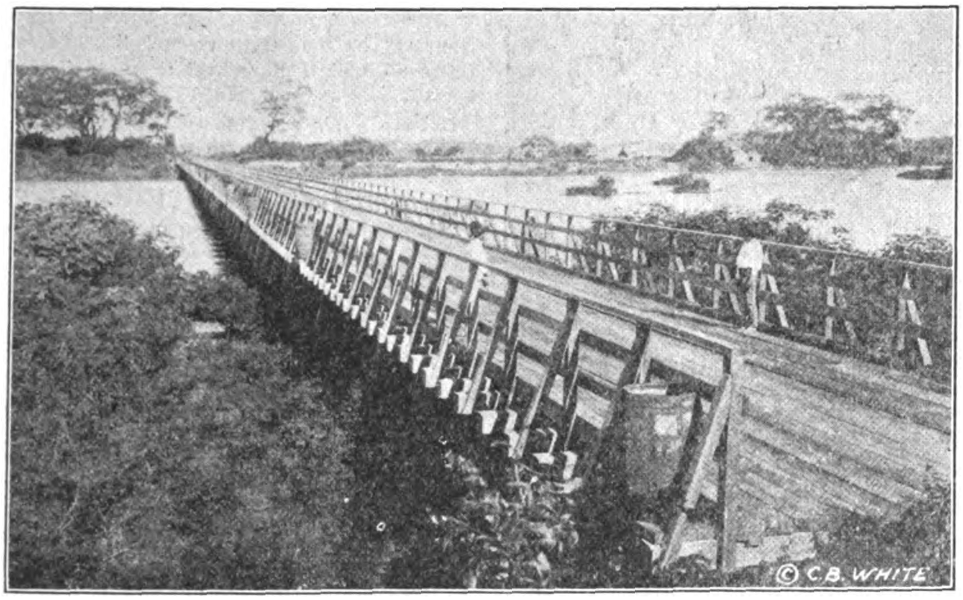
It is a mistake to assume that all of Chiapas is mountainous, and hence inaccessible. Through the ports of Tonalá and San Benito on the Pacific the rich districts of Tonalá and Soconusco can be reached, and from the former port of the towns of Tuxtla, Chiapa and San Cristóbal are accessible by means of a good wagon road. Six water-ways give access through the gulf to the district of Mezcalapa, Pichucalco, Simojovel, and Palenque. Ascending the Grijalva River, in Tabasco, and following the Mezcalapa, the districts of Mezcalapa and Tuxtla are reached; the district of Pichucalco is reached by the river Blanquillo, Simojovel by the Tapijulapa, and Palenque by the rivers Tulija and Chacamas. Palenque is also accessible from Lake Términos by ascending the rivers Palizada and Usumacinta into Lake Catazaja to the town of Catazaja. The Mezcalapa is navigable for low-draught boats up to within twenty-four Mexican leagues from Tuxtla-Gutierrez, the capital of the State. The Department of Comitán is not easily reached by either the gulf or the Pacific Ocean, but its proximity to Guatemala offers great advantages for the exportation of its products to that country, which will always contribute to the enrichment of the inhabitants.

Chiapas has over three hundred thousand inhabitants; the majority of them are Indians, and there are said to be fourteen distinct tribes. They are of a peaceful disposition, and there are among them tribes which are intelligent and highly civilized, as may be seen in Tuxtla, Ocosocuautla, Copainala, and other places. The inhabitants of Chiapas are remarkable for their hospitality. Foreigners are well received, and no distinction is made on account of nationality. The necessaries of life are generally cheap and excellent. There are schools distributed throughout the State according to the size of the towns. In the cities of San Cristóbal, Comitán, and Tuxtla there are high schools for girls, supported by the city and State governments, and under the guardianship of the latter government. In Tuxtla and San Cristóbal there are preparatory schools where students receive preliminary instruction for any professional college of the federal governnment.

Commerce is the most developed of the resources of Chiapas. Tonalá and Soconusco supply themselves through their ports; Pichucalco and Palenque are supplied from San Juan Bautista; the remaining departments do their trading for foreign products with Tuxtla, which is the commercial metropolis of the State, and here capital and wealth have concentrated themselves. Trade in Chiapas is susceptible of great possibilities.

Agriculture is in its infancy, but will be the means of adding materially to the wealth of the State. Coffee, which has been cultivated for some years, is greatly enriching some of the departments.

Cacao, tobacco, rubber, vanilla, etc., are largely produced in all the departments where the climate is warm, and the tropical fruits such as pineapples, bananas of various kinds, and of excellent quality, lemons, oranges, mangos and zapotes, are raised. The production of cereals is abundant, and in some sections corn yields four hundred for one. Wheat, which can be raised on a large scale in Las Casas, is sold for a good price throughout the State. Cattle-raising is one of the best enterprises in Chiapas, on account of the splendid pasture-lands.



Boundary River Between Mexico and Guatemala

Mining is another inportant industry. The gold-mine of Santa Fé in Pichucalco is worked with good financial success; other mines have been discovered and gradually developed. Those in Motozintla (Comitán) and several others in Tuxtla and Chiapa demonstrate the fact that the State is wealthy in minerals.

The district of Palenque is located in the descent which the Sierra Madre mountains make on their extension toward the northern part of the State, and covers a great portion of the plains that stretch out to Tabasco and Campeche.

Near the town of Palenque are the famous ruins of that name. They were discovered by the Spaniards in 1570, but no one knows what they were originally intended for or by whom they were built. They consist of artificial terraces, or terraced truncated pyramids, of cut stone. They are surrounded by edifices of elaborate plan, covered with hieroglyphics, and bearing evidences of having once been painted in bright colors. The principal structure, called the palace, is built upon a truncated pyramid three hundred and ten feet long. The palace itself is two hundred and twenty-eight feet long and twenty-five feet high. It is built of cut stones cemented with lime and sand, and was once painted. The hieroglyphics which ornamented the piers and bas-reliefs show a much better knowledge of human anatomy than is shown in other American aboriginal work of like nature. In one of the courts are a number of stucco tablets and one of stone which shows a cross-legged seated figure like that of Buddha in some of the Hindoo pictures. It is one a seat carved with figures of jaguars, and before it is another richly dressed figure presenting some highly ornamented object. There are hieroglyphics on the tablet that doubtless tell the whole story, could we but read them. Near by is another building seventy-five feet long, and with solid walls except on the north, where there are five doorways and six piers. Four of the latter are ornamented with well-executed female figures, and the whole is ornamented with stucco-work and plenty of hieroglyphics, outside the house and in. In another structure is a group of human figures apparently in the act of making a solemn sacrifice. Many of the buildings seem to have been lived in, and others were probably devoted to religious purposes. Two stones in the shape of a tongue, about a yard long and two-thirds of a yard wide, inscribed with hieroglyphics, are objects of awe and adoration to the Indians. Throughout the State are scattered evidences of ancient occupancy, and it is remarkable for the numerous ruins of ancient cities and monuments. The tombs at Palenque are objects of deep interest to archaeologists. One who has not visited the forests of Palenque cannot imagine the inextricable confusion of great roots, overturned tree-trunks, climbing vines, and decaying vegetation that buries everything under a seething, gloomy, deceptive covering. One step forward may land one on a fallen column, and the next bury one waist-deep in the rotten trunk of a fallen forest giant among scorpions and biting ants.

The Gold Situation

Contrary to published reports, there is no commission in this country for the purpose of arranging for the shipment of gold into Mexico as a privilege under the embargo recently established by the United States. Some time ago the American authorities were asked to allow the transfer of $5,000,000 monthly to enable the mining and oil companies in Mexico to meet obligations in that country payable in United States coin. Not only was this request granted, but the amount was doubled, $10,000,000 monthly being the total specified. In addition to this, the American Government voluntarily offered to permit a large amount of silver pesos to be shipped into this country, where they will be exchanged for gold and returned to Mexico. The Mexican Government has notified all gold-mining companies in that country that the national mint is open for the coinage of all gold bullion that they may desire to have so treated. This also will tend to alleviate the situation. The "commission" that it has been reported is now in this country for the purpose of handling the gold question is merely a private committee of the Chamber of Commerce entrusted ***solely with the duty of purchasing corn,*** for which it pays in gold.

FRONTISPIECE—THE ANCIENT CITY OF MEXICO

The frontispiece of this issue of THE REVIEW is a reproduction of a painting made by an artist after careful study of the writings of the Spanish historians of the time of Cortez in which descriptions were given of the temple and other buildings which were destroyed by the invaders. It is claimed that the structures are depicted as nearly in accordance with the originals as is possible. The site is that of the present "Zocalo," or plaza, on one side of which is the cathedral, on another the National Palace, on still another the Municipal Palace, and many business buildings in addition. The Aztec calendar stone shown in the illustration was built into the walls of the cathedral at the southwest corner. From this starting point those familiar with the present city can reconstruct the ancient one.

The Huerta usurpation obtained large sums from certain banks in Mexico City, which institutions have applied to the Government for repayment. They have been informed that in accordance with the notification issued at the time of the loans by First Chief Carranza, such loans will not be recognized or repaid by the Government.

Mexico's Present Condition

Charles A. Douglas Gives the Result of His Observations on a Recent Visit to the Republic

CHARLES A. DOUGLAS, counselor in the United States for the Mexican Government, who returned to Washington recently after a month's stay in Mexico, having gone there to confer with officials and study conditions, gave the *Star* a description of the economic, political and industrial situation in the Republic.

Commenting on the present state of order throughout Mexico, Mr. Douglas said:

"Order is being slowly but surely restored. Barring occasional train robberies and small sore spots in the States of Morelos and Durango, conditions are approaching the normal everywhere. The general demoralization that inevitably follows in the wake of civil strife has not yet wholly disappeared. Indisposition to work, and, in places, inability to get work, added to the destruction of many thousand acres of corn by the recent October frosts, make troubles enough for the Government and the country, but the authorities are bravely and intelligently facing these and the other problems, and I believe they are on the way to satisfactory solution.

All Courts Reorganized

"The courts, Federal and State, are reorganized and fully equipped, and are everywhere performing their functions. The recently and intelligently revised system of education is in full operation, from the common, free schools all over the Republic to the National University at the capital. The Normal College of Mexico City is officered and managed principally by professors and teachers educated by Carranza in the United States. More money is being actually expended throughout the country on schools, and many more pupils now are in attendance on schools than in the best days of the Diaz régime. The hope is not for present, but for the next, and then the next generation.

"Industrially and commercially, Mexico's progress during the current year, everything considered, has been simply amazing.

"The work of railroad habilitation is illuminating. Several thousand freight cars and many locomotives were destroyed down to their steel frames during the Revolution. There are now running at full blast eight or ten workshops located in various sections of the Republic, giving work to 11,000 employes, and the cars are being rebuilt wholly at home, and at the rate of 4000 per annum. The tracks of the National Railways for the entire distance from Laredo to Mexico City are rock-ballasted, and generally in excellent condition."

Mexico City Conditions

Relative to conditions in Mexico City, the attitude of the population there and especially of the foreign element toward the present Government, Mr. Douglas commented as follows:

"The present population in the Capital is abnormally large. There are perhaps a million people there at this time—nearly double the normal population. It is as difficult to rent a store or house or an apartment in Mexico City as it is in Washington. Considering the congestion of people and the heterogeneous elements there, order is so good that it is noteworthy. For instance, President Carranza goes every day from the castle at Chapultepec to the National Palace, a distance of two and a half or three miles, without a guard or secret service man in attendance on him.

"At first the people of the city—and I have especially in mind the foreign element—were opposed to the new order of things, but now there is general acquiescence, with an increasing disposition to support the Government. They have criticisms to make and some of them are doubtless just, but all the people with whom I talked, particularly the business men, expressed confidence in the integrity and high purposes of the President, and deprecated the thought of a change, with or without another revolution.

Mr. Chas. A. Douglas

Praises Ambassador Fletcher

"Too much cannot be said of the splendid and effective work of Ambassador Fletcher. He is winning golden opinions from Mexicans and Americans alike. He has convinced the Mexican people that he, like President Wilson, is a sincere friend of Mexico. I say 'like President Wilson' because I do not believe that there is a Mexican in Mexico who has not an abiding faith in the disinterestedness and earnest friendship of the President of the United States for the people of Mexico."

Financial Situation Discussed

Turning to the financial situation, in response to questions as to how much Mexico is suffering from lack of an adequate circulating medium, and her other financial problems, Mr. Douglas continued:

"Mexico is suffering greatly because of the scarcity of money purely as a circulating medium. A year ago Mexico had nothing but a depreciated paper currency—no gold or silver at that time being in circulation. Less than a year ago, when the paper money became worthless, it naturally and inevitably went out of circulation wholly, and then gold and silver came from out their hiding places, and overnight the money of Mexico changed from all paper to all metallic money, until now there is in circulation in Mexico nothing but gold and silver.

"It is generally estimated that there is in circulation in Mexico gold and silver not in excess of $8 per capita, which is less than one-fourth of the per capita circulation that is needed, and the result is that everything there is high—very high.

"The recent order of the United States Secretary of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Board permitting the shipment of gold into Mexico, $10,000,000 for the month of October, $5,000,000 for the month of November, and $2,000,000 each month for four months thereafter, not only created a distinctly favorable impression upon the Mexican people, but already has relieved the money situation there greatly.

Will Need Paper Money

"Of course, sooner or later Mexico will have to have some form of paper money to help swell the volume of her currency. It will not be uninteresting to state, in this connection, that Mr. Henry Bruere, of New York, ably assisted by Mr. Lille, is now engaged in Mexico City in a scientific study of the currency problems of Mexico, preparatory to making important recommendations to the Government with reference to its future currency policies.

"Any kind of statement of the financial problems of Mexico would itself take more than a column of your space, but I may be permitted to make several observations:

"(1) That Mexico financed her recent revolution wholly from within, not borrowing one dollar from without, and she will, of course, have in some way, and at some time, to pay this debt.

"(2) She is in arrears in the payment of interest and her sinking-fund obligations growing out of her exterior and interior bonded indebtedness, and she will have to make provision to meet and discharge these overdue obligations.

"(3) She will, in due course, be face to face with obligations to pay such of the damages caused by the Revolution as she may legally be held liable to pay.

"(4) That Mexico is not yet ready, in my opinion, to undertake the refinancing that will

(Concluded on page 11)

Compelling Land Cultivation

Proposed Law by Which All Lands Whose Owners Neglect or Refuse to Utilize Them Shall Be Put to Public Use

A PROPOSED law by which all cultivable lands whose owners neglect or refuse to make productive use thereof may be utilized for the benefit of the people has been submitted to the Chamber of Deputies, and by that body sent to the Special Agrarian Commission for examination and report. The law is as follows:

"Article 1. The cultivation of workable lands is hereby declared to be for the public benefit. The Nation always has the right to regulate the use of national resources that are susceptible to appropriation, and consequently it can temporarily have the disposal, for agricultural purposes, of those lands whose legitimate owners do not cultivate the same.

"Article 2. All those lands that have not been cultivated by their proprietors after the planting season will pass on to the disposal of the municipality during the rest of the agricultural year, for the purpose of letting them on partnership or leasing them to the residents of the municipality of their location who may apply for them.

"Article 3. The lands described below are hereby declared idle, and therefore included in the present law. All the lands that in years past have been cultivated with crops or plants of any kind during the wet season, or by means of irrigation, and the lands that in the opinion of the residents are susceptible to be put in cultivation during the rainy season.

"Article 4. The following are not included in the provisions of this law:

"I. The summer pasture lands, and pasture lands now in service.

"II. The woodlands that should be preserved, according to the laws concerning thereto.

"Article 5. The local legislatures shall determine the seasons in each State when the proprietors are to be considered as having refused or failed to put their properties in cultivation, taking into consideration the customs of the place, the climate and kind of cultivation.

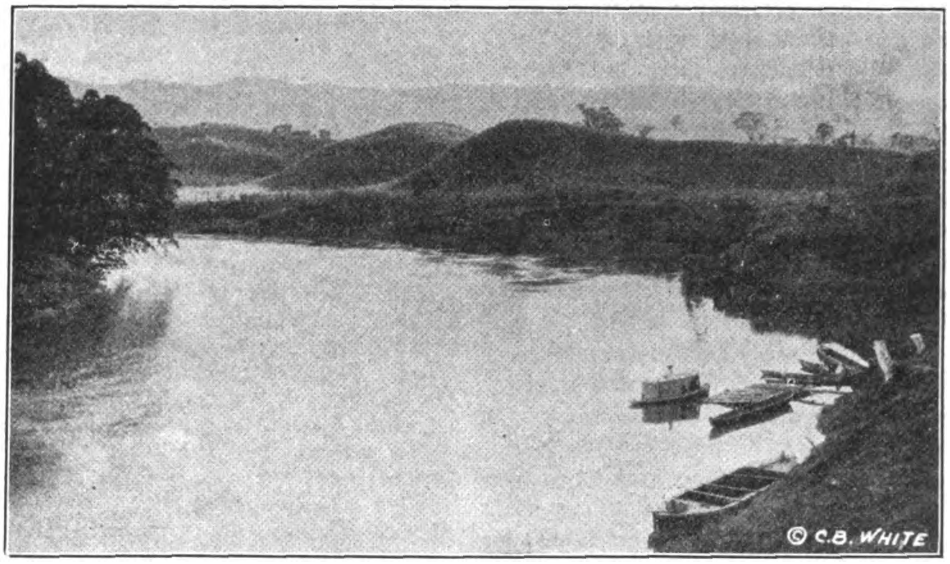
"For the Federal District, the 30th of April is set as the end of the sowing season for the proprietors, and the 1st of May as the beginning of the sowing season of idle lands for the farmers.

"Article 6. If by the 1st day of May the lands in the Federal District have not yet been broken or sowed, they shall be considered as idle, and therefore included within the provisions of this law.

"Article 7. All residents of a municipality have the right to point out all workable lands that are idle to the attention of the respective Municipal Council, and to make application for working those that they believe can be cultivated. The Councils should, at the end of three days following the denunciation or pointing out of idle lands, grant those lands without any other proceedings than that of determining or making sure that the lands to be let are without cultivation, or have not been broken or prepared for cultivation.

"Article 8. The Municipal Councils can freely fix the terms of partnership or lease; they can either furnish the farmers with the tools with which to work the lands, or only furnish them the lands, with the understanding that the amount to be required from the farmer, through partnership or lease, must not exceed forty per cent of the value of the crop.

"Article 9. The amount of land that the Municipal Council can let to each resident, for its cultivation, will be not more than 20 hectares in the Federal District, nor more than 100 hectares in Lower California and in Quintana Roo. (Fifty to 250 acres.)



River Scene in the State of Chiapas

"The local legislatures, when enacting regulations for this law, shall fix the amount of idle lands that can be let by the Municipal Councils of the States.

"Article 10. Lands for cultivation, according to this decree, can be let only to persons who are neighbors and residents of the municipality in which the lands are located, those persons being duly registered as such in the tax registry of the municipality before the 1st day of January of the year when application have been made for idle lands for cultivation.

"Article 11. The products of the partnership or lease of idle lands will be incorporated with the funds of the municipality.

"Article 12. The proprietor of workable idle lands has no right to require from those who work them any rent or indemnity for the land that the Municipal Council has let to him for cultivation, and the authorities will see that this abuse is not committed against the farmers.

"Article 13. The possession that is assumed by the municipality over irrigable idle lands carries with it the right to use the waters that, according to right, or according to custom, have been used for the irrigation of those same lands.

"Article 14. The lands to which this decree refers shall continue to be considered as the properties of their respective owners in respect to all legal purposes, but the municipality will have the character of temporary possessor of their titles during the respective agricultural year, only for the purposes of this law; with the understanding that once the crop has been harvested, or the next agricultural year has begun, the possession of the lands shall again be considered as having been returned to their legitimate owners.

"Article 15. The Municipal Councils, through the political commissioners and other subaltern authorities, shall render due protection to the farmers and land proprietors, so that this law may be complied without any injuries being committed by one against the other.

"Article 16. In each municipality a very exact record must be kept of the movements of cultivation within its corresponding jurisdiction, and as to its relation with this law.

"Article 17. Based upon the general provisions contained in the articles of this law, the local legislatures can dictate all the regulatory dispositions that would tend to put them in practice in the States, and the Congress of the Union shall dictate those that may be deemed necessary regarding the Federal District and Territories.

"This law shall, however, become in force at once, giving the executive powers of the States and the Governments of the Federal Districts and Territories, the transitory power to solve all doubts or confusions that may result from the enforcement of this law, or if this law has to be enforced before the establishment of the respective regulations."

The Government of the State of Mexico is establishing ethnographic schools in various sections for the purpose of stimulating interest in that important branch.

· The ·
Mexican Review
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A REGRETTABLE RECRUDESCENCE

For some inscrutable reason there has recently been a recrudescence of the campaign of misrepresentation regarding Mexico that has its chief center at El Paso. For several months there had been a notable cessation in this direction, but of late it has been renewed with virulence as though to make up for lost time. The most absurd statements—statements which were on their very face impossible—have been sent from that place and have found ready and wide publication. Such for example is the recent report that Felix Diaz had captured the city of Puebla and was moving on the city of Mexico with a well equipped army of 30,000 men. In the first place, if such an impossible thing had really happened, there would have been no method by which to communicate the news to El Paso, as the intervening telegraph lines for the entire distance (over a thousand miles) are entirely in the possession of the Federal Government. In the next place, bodies of armed men require equipment, artillery, etc., and since all that are in the country are in the possession of the Government with the exception of some small numbers of rifles, while none are permitted to be shipped from the United States and all ports of entry in the Republic are held by the Government, it must be plain to even the crudest mind that it would be a physical impossibility to raise and equip an army of thirty thousand, or three thousand, or even three hundred men at a moment's notice.

Puebla has *not* been disturbed. Felix Diaz is *not* in the field at the head of an army, and the entire story bears on its face the marks of a fake of the fakiest kind—equal to the worst that El Paso ever turned out when Villa was at the height of his power and was distributing largesse with a free hand! ! !

The false reports regarding the food situation are another case in point and are fully refuted elsewhere, but they too are a portion of what seems very like a deliberate campaign of misrepresentation.

It is a pity that there should be a revival at this juncture of the damaging, untruthful and maliciously antagonistic reports spread broadcast regarding conditions in Mexico, and which can have but one result—to arouse suspicion and ill feeling between the two countries. Indeed, it is quite evident that this is the purpose of the revival of the campaign of falsehood.

AS TO MEXICO'S DETRACTORS

From a letter written by Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of Denver, apropos to recent malicious attacks upon Mexico in the press, THE REVIEW has been permitted to make the following extract—the letter not having been written with a view to publicity:

"I was in Mexico City in March and April of this year. I had no difficulty whatever in getting there or in traveling about the country. The general situation seemed more hopeful and prosperous than at any time since the early months of the Madero régime. Mr. Carranza seems to me to have wrought marvels. I found myself in a continual state of astonishment at what he has been able to accomplish. By the way, he granted me the high honor of a personal interview. After all I had heard about his dislike of Americans I was prepared for a somewhat cool reception. On the contrary, however, Mr. Carranza received me with entire cordiality and was altogether open and free in answering the questions I asked him. The organization with which I am connected consists of about fifty Mexican teachers and preachers. At the yearly meeting in Mexico City every man was in his place. The reports from the various fields of work showed a complete hopefulness and confidence as to the Mexican situation. I share with you indignation over such utterances as that of the Minneapolis preacher. I have been going to Mexico once a year for the last five years. During all that time I have never seen anything to substantiate the charges which he makes."

ALL LEGAL RIGHTS OF FOREIGNERS RESPECTED

Some time since THE REVIEW asked Governor Esteban Cantu, of the Territory of Lower California, regarding certain lands in that section belonging to foreigners. In reply, Governor Cantu says:

"All persons who own lands with perfect titles can depend upon this Government for all the support the law affords them in every respect. The Americans on whose behalf you write can therefore be sure that all the rights legally granted to them will be respected. In regard to "demasias" lands (those adjacent but having no title), it is necessary to apply to the authorities for information regarding them."

A PRAISEWORTHY BOOK ON MEXICO

In the flood of literature regarding Mexico which gives anything but an accurate picture of conditions in that country, it is refreshing to find a notable exception on rare occasions. Such an exception is "Thirty Years With the Mexicans in Peace and Revolution," by the Rev. Alden Buell Case. The author went to that country for the avowed purpose of helping the people—the common people. He went there with an open mind, a heart full of sympathy, and a broad kindliness that evinces itself in every page almost of the book. He found the Mexicans of reality very different indeed from those of fiction—and by fiction is meant magazine and newspaper articles as well as books written under the pretense of truth telling, but about as far from the truth as the poles are apart.

A couple of quotations are worth while as indicative of the general tone of the work:

"The Mexicans are charged with being treacherous, given to vices, improvident and indolent. It would be strange if faults like these were not found among them. The constant wonder is their very many admirable traits. My years of experience have impressed me more with their constancy and faithfulness than with the opposite characteristics."

"A great deal of unpleasant feeling against Americans has been naturally aroused by an unworthy class of our countrymen in that land —men overbearing in their conduct with Mexicans, rude, discourteous, abusive, persistently seeking only the defects in the less fortunate people and making no attempt to conceal their contempt for them. It is this class of *gringoes* (they deserve the epithet) that one hears loudly defaming the whole Mexican race. Naturally, such Americans do not succeed in winning the respect, much less the esteem, of a sensitive people—who are, moreover, apt to judge all Americans by these bad samples. Most unfortunately the United States has many such undesirable representatives in Mexico and along the border. It is they who are responsible for much of the ugly feeling reported, and it is such as they who are loudest in their demands that there shall be armed intervention in Mexico."

THE REVIEW takes pleasure in recommending a perusal of Mr. Case's exceedingly interesting book to all who really wish to learn something of the truth about one of the worst maligned and least understood countries in the world. It also takes pleasure in congratulating the author for a good piece of work well done, and that cannot fail to be productive of beneficial results.

NOTABLE LEGAL ALLIANCE

Mr. A. E. L. Leckie, a well known Washington attorney, has established offices in Mexico City, having associated himself with Messrs. Fernando Gonzalez Rosa and B. Carbajal y Rosas, two prominent attorneys. Their offices are in the Bank of London building, corner of 16th of September avenue and Bolivar street. It is the intention to make a specialty of all legal matters in which foreigners may be interested, the high standing of the gentlemen named giving assurance of the satisfactory conduct of all affairs intrusted to them. Mr. Leckie will represent THE MEXICAN REVIEW in matters pertaining to the law.

PRESIDENT CARRANZA MAKES A STATEMENT

Under date of October 16th "El Universal," the leading newspaper of Mexico City, announced that during a secret session of the Chamber of Deputies a committee had been appointed to wait upon the President and obtain from him the best information regarding the situation of the Government, at the same time pledging Congress to give all the co-operation that might be necessary for the solution of the political difficulties that might arise.

In response to the address of the committee, President Carranza said:

"The Government is not confronted by any political-military problem. Villa's bands have been dissipated. Zapata continues to be the same problem, and Felix Diaz has never caused any serious fears to the Government.

"The problem before the Government is to give society ample guarantees against lawlessness. This has increased by reason of difficulties of constitutional character, for it appears that the outlaws are enjoying more guaranties than their opponents, the soldiers of the army, and I have recommended to the Chamber the desirability of hastening their approval of the law of suspension of guarantees. (This has since been done, as telegraphed.)

"Mexico is preserving the friendship of all the world. Regarding the United States, there are only negotiations because that country, having prohibited the exportation of metals, the Mexican funds deposited there can only be collected in paper, which having a very low rate of exchange, results in a difference against Mexico. Down to date in all cases the question has been favorably settled, and there will robably be an arrangement by treaty regarding this matter."

IMPROVING THE TRAIN SERVICE

A delegation of railway representatives from Houston, Texas, recently visited Mexico City and arranged with the Constitutionalist lines for the establishment of a daily train service between the former city and Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, via Brownsville and Matamoros. At Monterrey direct connection will be made with Mexico and all portions of the Republic. The Gulf Coast line will handle the traffic on the American side of the line. A large deposit will be made with one of the leading banks of Mexico City to meet import and export taxes and otherwise facilitate the carrying on of extensive business transactions. The American railway men also promised to facilitate the acquisition of sufficient rolling stock, as also to repair all that may be sent to their shops for that purpose.

On account of the good results and heavy receipts from the express-train service that has been in operation for some time between Mexico City and Laredo, it has been decided to put on another daily train of ten cars, to handle the rapidly increasing traffic.

"THERE IS NO IRRELIGIOUS TYRANNY," SAYS CANON PAREDES

Under the foregoing caption one of the leading Mexico City newspapers publishes an interview with Monsignor Paredes, the recognized head of the Catholic Church in Mexico, regarding an article concerning the alleged antagonistic activities of a group of church leaders in San Antonio, Texas.

"There have always been a number of bishops and priests in that city who have played politics in our country, but my information is that they have separated and there are no longer compact groups with power to hold conventions," said Monsignor Paredes.

In reply to the question: "Is it true that there exists an irreligious tyranny in the Republic?" Monsignor Paredes said:

"No, the Mexican clericals have always had kindnesses (civilities) on the part of the present Government. And what they (the San Antonio clericals) say about tyranny is laughable. It is not true, either, that the Government has taken from the religious bodies the legal right to exist. It is true that at times there has been a desire by some to control liberty of conscience, but this is not the fault of the law, but rather the manner of applying it. I think that the information is quite exaggerated and only could have been inspired by the foreign priests who have abandoned the country because of the new laws adopted by the Republic."

PROPOSED CLAIMS COMMISSION

The Secretary of the Treasury has prepared a plan for submission to the council of ministers and subsequently to the President for the establishment of a Claims Commission to consider all claims for damages arising from the revolution of 1910 and also during the Huerta usurpation. All international claims shall be submitted to this commission, and after due examination an award shall be made. If the claimant shall be dissatisfied with the award, the case will be laid before an arbitration commission of two persons—one on behalf of the Government and one representing the claimant. In case they shall not agree upon an award, then a third member shall be selected from some country having no claim against Mexico, and his decision shall be final.

In this connection it is of interest to note that in 1866 a joint Mexican and American commission was appointed to adjust claims for damages between the two countries, the English Minister to Washington being the umpire. Americans filed demands aggregating $470,126,613, there being 1017 claims examined and 831 rejected. The total of awards to American claimants by the commission was $4,125,622, or less than one per cent of the amount claimed. Subsequently the Mexican government, after paying one instalment, presented proof that two of the leading claims awarded, amounting to $1,168,851, were fraudulent and had been supported by false statements.

THE CONSTITUTIONALIST

A youth rode the trail of the desert
In the brilliant morning light,
And dreamt of a time in the future
When truth would conquer might.
His not the blood of the warrior
Who glories in devastation;
His was the blood of the builder
Who seeks his soul's salvation.

His head was swathed in a bandage,
The symbol of struggles borne;
His thoughts were of city and mesa
By the hand of revolution torn.
But he dreamt a dream of manana
With liberty and justice for all,
In the sunlight not far distant
When tyranny must surely fall.

When learning, science and culture
Would be their heredity for aye,
And the foul misdeeds of the old regime
Would vanish like night before day.
The breezes will sigh in the palm trees,
And the mandolin ring at night,
When the dreams of a dreamer come true
And freedom wins the fight!

—Cecil Miller,
Huntington, W. Va.

WOMEN VOTE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY

For the first time in the history of Mexico, women are to be permitted to vote, the State of Guanajuato enjoying this privilege. The newly adopted constitution of that State confers the privilege of suffrage in all municipal matters upon women, the only restriction being that they must be of reputable character. Such elections are to be held shortly, and it is reported that the male portion of the population is awaiting the outcome with great interest.

The newly adopted national constitution does not prohibit woman suffrage, but by implication permits it. No test has as yet been made in a national election, but the State of Guanajuato has set the example of granting the privilege in local affairs.

It is believed that the example thus set will shortly be followed in other States, such as Yucatan, for example, which has shown itself very advanced in this as well as in other respects, the first women's congresses ever convened in the Republic having been held in the capital city, Merida.

MEXICAN DISPLAY IN SAN FRANCISCO

In accordance with the plan of establishing exhibits of Mexican manufactured and natural products in connection with the consulates in the chief cities of the world, one is to be inaugurated in San Francisco within a brief period. It is to be in charge of Mr. L. Basch, a native of Alsace-Lorraine, formerly of French citizenship but now a naturalized Mexican citizen, who has had experience in this direction and is an enthusiast regarding this method of publicity. That it will do much good in educating the people of California regarding their much maligned and deeply misunderstood next-door neighbor, cannot be doubted. It is one of the best and most effective avenues for publicity that can be devised.

A Mexican Christmas

How It Was Celebrated in Beautiful Hermosillo in the Midst of the Revolution—Some Novel Experiences

IT WAS at Hermosillo, that well-named and beautiful little city which is the capital of the State of Sonora.

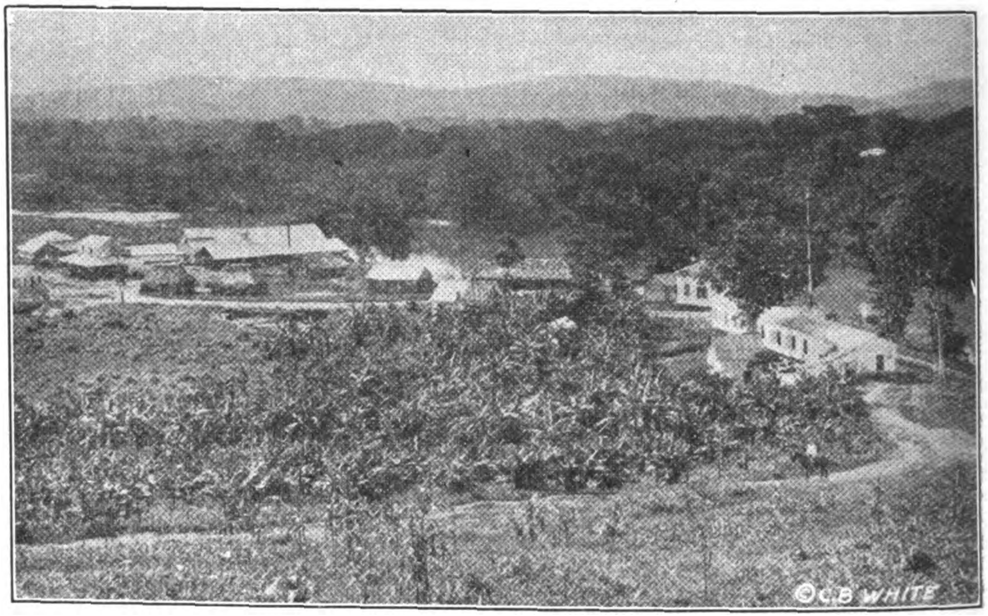
The Revolution was in full blast. The tide of war was ebbing and flowing here and there. The Federal commander at Guaymas, the brutal and bloodthirsty Ojeda, had not yet had the opportunity to carry out his threat of hanging a foreigner to every telegraph pole between that place and Hermosillo, reserving the last and highest one for the pleasant American consul, Louis Hostetter, whose truthful reports to Washington had embittered the Huertistas. He made attempt after attempt to get through the beleaguering lines of the Constitutionalists, but was always driven back. When his soldiers heard the weird "tump-tump-tump" of the Yaqui drums, communicating orders and instructions therewith, they lost all interest in the proposed hanging excursion and incontinently sought refuge behind their intrenchments.

All over the Republic the Constitutionalist cause was increasing in power and progress, and nearly every day brought the news of some fresh accession of territory. The temporary capital of the Constitutionalist Government was in Hermosillo, and General Carranza and his associates were there. So were General Obregon and his Yaquis, and the city was a lively and bustling place.

At the Hotel Arcadia was gathered a little colony of foreigners, including a couple of American newspaper correspondents, the wife of one, an English soldier of fortune—not a soldier *for* fortune, but a soldier *with* a fortune—who had joined the movement for the novelty of it and was licking into shape a brigade of cavalry which afterward under his efficient tutelage became the crack corps of the entire army and did not a little toward winning the ultimate victory and making the first triumphal entry into Mexico City—far more than the much-vaunted and boastful Villa. This English soldier, by the way, did not have a word of Spanish when he undertook to drill this cavalry brigade, made up largely of Yaquis. But he secured a drill book, had translations made, and every night sat up until he had mastered the orders he intended giving the following day. His men never knew that his command of the language was so limited, though it did not require any very lengthy intercourse with them to give him a good working knowledge of the vernacular.

The holidays were coming and the little foreign colony decided to celebrate them in good old-fashioned style. The markets were not overstocked with any kind of food, as the presence of a great population of soldiers and their families, the civil officials of the Government, and many other temporary sojourners, created a demand which the dealers found it difficult to supply.

After some search an Indian and a turkey were found and were quickly separated by the application of a little *real* money, while a cook was also discovered who could make mince pies of a kind. At the last minute almost it was discovered that there was no cranberry sauce, without which no self-respecting turkey would ever permit himself to be served at a Christmas dinner. There was no time to send to the border for some of the bog fruit, and the managers of the feast were in a quandary. But an obliging and very clever lady who conducted a drug store and who was also an excellent cook—she was from California, by the way—managed with the aid of some apples as a foundation to construct so clever an imitation of cranberry jelly that no one knew the difference until after it was all eaten and the affair was discussed next day.



Typical Chiapas Sugar Plantation

The dinner went off without a hitch or unpleasantness of any kind, and after it had been disposed of a party was given in the hotel parlors to which a number of the residents of the city were invited. They would have been invited to dinner, only there would not have been sufficient turkey to "go around," but they came cheerfully and joyously to the dance. Among the number were two not at all homely and not at all dull young lady school teachers who spoke English fluently. All the foreigners did their best with the Spanish at their command, and the result was a jolly, merry Christmas celebration.

One of the guests was the expert chef of a brewery which is one of Hermosillo's prominent institutions—a typical good-natured, hospitable German—who had entertained some of the foreigners, including those who gave the party, and as a great favor had given them to drink of a certain special brand of beer that had been laid down for years. It was assuredly good beer, and the host insisted that each of his guests should concede that it was a little the best he had ever drunk. This was good-naturedly agreed to by all except the English soldier of fortune. He was willing to acknowledge that it was good—much better, in fact, than the average malt beverage to be found away from "home." But he could not in truth agree that it was the best he had ever tasted. As a matter of fact he had at the hotel a small quantity of a special brand imported by himself that he thought was far superior, and he was willing to leave it to the brewmaster himself to pass upon it. If he would call at the hotel at an early opportunity he would be afforded the wished-for opportunity. Christmas night he appeared, willing to make an impartial test, though he was quite sure his own brew would rank higher than the other.

The gentleman who presided over the cantina of the hotel had been given advance instructions of a certain character. In due time half a dozen foreigners, including the Englishman and the German, sat down at a table together to partake of refreshments. The host called to the barkeeper to serve some of his "special private brew," and to send it to the table in large glasses, which was done. After all had emptied their glasses the brewmaster was asked his opinion. But he merely shook his head. It was true it was better than most of the native or even the American beers, but in many respects, some of which he specified, it was not in his opinion equal to his own pet brand. So another test was made and then another, until each of the guests had put four good-sized glasses under his belt. The brewmaster's eyes by now had begun to sparkle. So had the others'. He drank the third and fourth glasses with great gusto, smacked his lips, and finally, upon being pressed for another opinion, somewhat grudgingly conceded that the Englishman's special brew was "almost as good" as his own private brand.

He might well have conceded so much!

(See last column next page)

State Land Regulation

Measure Now Before the Congress of Queretaro Carrying Out the Provisions of the Constitution

THE Constitution of the Republic of Mexico provides that the various State Legislatures shall enact the necessary legislation regarding the amount of lands permitted to be held by single individuals and how the surplus shall be disposed of. There has been submitted to the Legislature of the State of Queretaro a project which is now under discussion, and is interesting as affording an indication of the temper of the law makers in this direction.

Among the most important provisions of the proposed law is one that fixes the maximum area that can be possessed by any one person at 200 hectares (500 acres) of farming lands, and 500 hectares (1250 acres) of first-class pasture lands, in the municipalities of Queretaro and San Juan del Rio, which are the most thickly settled portions of the State, and a maximum of 300 hectares (750 acres) of farming lands and 1000 hectares (2500 acres) of pasture lands in the other districts of the State.

The law provides that within two months after the promulgation of the law, all land owners must report to the Government the area held by them and how much they claim in excess of the legal amount as stated. They may select the areas they desire to retain up to the maximum, but may not subsequently change the selection. They may dispose of the balance of their lands at private sale if they choose. If not so disposed, it is subject to denunciation on the part of those desiring it, preference being given in all cases to co-owners, coheirs, contiguous owners, relatives, etc., from the first to the eighth grades. When so denounced a valuation shall be placed upon the lands equal to the valuation that may have been affixed for taxation purposes, with an increase of ten per cent, provided the owner shall have given his consent to the act of expropriation.

The person to whom the land is allotted shall pay five per cent interest on deferred payment and from three to five per cent annually upon the principal as may be agreed. If default is made in such payment the land may be transferred to another, but in no case to the original owner, unless he does not exceed the maximum limit affixed.

Where lands are expropriated, a board composed of a representative of the Government and one for each of the parties—the owner and the applicant—shall determine after careful investigation the amount that shall be paid. Expropriation shall take place where the original owner refuses to divide his lands for sale or establishes unfair conditions that are not acceptable to the applicant.

In case any owner shall not have transferred his surplus lands within two years, an increase of 20 per cent will be levied in his taxes for the first year and 10 per cent annually thereafter in advance. Any land owner who pretends to divide his land but does not do so, and who shall continue to work his estate as a whole in an underhanded manner, shall be fined 20 per cent of the value thereof and the remainder shall be put on sale on account of the Govennment.

Severe penalties are also promised for those not obeying the law in its entirety.

MEXICO'S PRESENT CONDITION

(*Concluded on page* 6)

be required for her full and complete rehabilitation. When her work of pacification shall have been completed, and when her industrial progress shall have still further progressed, and when the American and Mexican people shall have reached a better understanding of each other's attitude, the one toward the other—and it is one, in my opinion, of real friendship now—it will be time enough to undertake this task, and then it will be successfully undertaken."

How Mexicans Regard the War

Asked to discuss the disposition of the Mexican people toward the United States, with special reference to the war, Mr. Douglas replied:

"In attempting to answer this question I cannot and do not undertake to speak either for the Government or the people of Mexico.

"It is my personal opinion, based on my careful observations during my recent visit to Mexico, that the real attitude, both of the Government and the people, is one of benevolent rather than strict neutrality toward the United States and the entente powers. The Government may conclude, although I do not know, that it should continue officially to be neutral—strictly neutral—but that the people and the authorities down there are in actual sympathy with the cause of democracy, and therefore with the United States, I have no doubt.

"There has been, and still is, some anti-American sentiment in Mexico, but there is very little pro-German sympathy there. The anti-American feeling is rapidly disappearing.

"The change in Mexico in this regard within the past thirty days has been marked and rapid. While I was in Mexico City resolutions were offered by prominent and influential members in both the Senate and Chamber of Deputies, declaring for a pro-Ally policy and for severing diplomatic relations with Germany. I was informed that three-fourths of the two houses were and are in favor of the passage of these resolutions.

"Mark you, I am speaking my own views of the trend of things international in our sister Republic to the south of us."

A MEXICAN CHRISTMAS

(*Concluded from preceding page*)

The glasses—large ones, too—had been filled half with a well-known high-standing American make of beer and half with the best brand of French champagne obtainable!

After the Christmas merrymaking, which proved so successful, some of the native guests reciprocated with an invitation to a New Year's eve celebration, which was gladly accepted. There were something like twenty-five couples in attendance in the private residence to which they had been bidden, which was of typical Mexican construction—patio and all.

A novel method for selecting partners had been devised—at least, it was novel to the foreigners in attendance. When the guests had all assembled the hostess produced a tangled bunch of ribbons of various colors, and each person was asked to select the end of one, there being as many separate ribbons as there were couples. Having made choice, it was the duty of each to untangle the ribbon from the bunch, and the gentleman and lady who were found to have the opposite ends of the same ribbon were partners for the evening.

There was a variety of amusements as well as dancing. "Piñatas" were provided and appropriately smashed, causing great merriment among the little ones as well as their elders. A "piñata" is an earthen jar or olla which is filled with candies, fruits, etc., decorated with ribbons, and then hung from the ceiling or the lintel of a doorway. Each person is in turn blindfolded, a stout stick is placed in his hand, he is turned around three times in order to bewilder him, and then he is given the word and directed to advance and smash the jar. Three trials are allowed each, and, as may be imagined, the efforts of the blinded one are the cause of vast amusement and hilarity. Every one is supposed to preserve absolute silence while the attempt is being made, and the result is that many times it is necessary to exercise great agility in order to escape the wildly aimed blows. When the jar is finally broken there is a wild scramble by the youngsters for the contents, strewn about the floor.

The crowning event of the evening's entertainment came at midnight, and this culmination was as unexpected to the foreigners as it was novel and not at all unpleasant. A few minutes before the hour each couple joined arms and began promenading about the room to the music of the orchestra. Just as the clock struck twelve each lady turned to her escort, gave him the national embrace and accompanied it with a kiss! It was then the duty of each gentleman, as soon as he recovered from his surprise, to salute each lady in the room in the same manner. This novel culmination to the festivities was voted by all the foreigners to be a most pleasing as well as unexpected practice!

Governor Mendez, of the State of Oaxaca, has directed the establishment of two schools for both sexes in the State penitentiary in the capital city.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

VI

The Captured Boy Who Found His Way Home

AGAIN I am occupying my favorite seat under the dense and grateful foliage of the china-berry tree. And, by the way, never was there a tree so fitted for tropical climates. Never was there a tree which gave such complete shelter from the burning midday heat. Not a ray of the torrid sunlight can penetrate beneath it. The limbs hang well down toward the ground in graceful curves, while the mass of verdure overhead is so dense that even the blue sky is shut off from view. By all means if one be seeking grace of appearance, beauty of outline and every shade giving quality, he should plant a chinaberry on lawn or in garden.

As was so frequently the case, Don Martin was by my side and we were engaged in our favorite occupation—exchanging information regarding each other's countries. Both were anxious learners. Glancing down the walk at an approaching figure, Don Martin said:

"Here is an interesting character. This man who is coming has been a soldier most of his life, but when he was a small boy of eight, in the days when the Comanches and Apaches were accustomed to raid this region from the north, he had an experience of the most remarkable character. Here—I will ask him to tell you himself about it."

He was invited to a seat and Don Martin told him that "El Gringo" would like to hear the story of his capture by the Indians and his remarkable escape from them. This man was different from Sergeant Martellet. He had never had the education nor the advantages of the associations that the Frenchman had enjoyed and his memory was not nearly so keen. Jose Martinez was his name. He was over eighty, but did not carry his years well by comparison with the hero of the Crimean war. However, his military life had kept him from falling into early decrepitude and he was still as hale and hearty as could reasonably be expected at his time of life.

This is the story he told us, sitting here in the cool, refreshing shade of the china-berry tree.

"It all happened many, many years ago. I was born in this town. It is my tierra—my home. When I was eight years old, my parents, who were poor, put me on a horse and sent me to herd the animals of the other people out in the valley every day in order that they might have enough to eat. Every morning at sunrise I went from house to house on my horse and collected the cows and horses and burros and goats and sheep, and drove them out into the valley where there was grass and water. I carried some tortillas in my pocket and I stayed out there alone all day, bringing the animals back at night. When we reached the edge of the town they all went home of their own accord. I did not have to bother with them, as each knew its owner's place, while I went home to my parents.

"The favorite pasture ground was on the trail toward the Sierra Mojada pass and near the Ojo de Agua (literally the eye of water—a large spring two or three miles out.) This spring, as you know, is around the other side of the point of the mountain of Ante-Ojo (the spectacles.) It is out of sight of Cuatro Cienegas and is a very lonely place indeed. Frequently I passed days at a time there without seeing a single person. Of course I knew that the Indians from the desert sometimes made raids and stole cattle and horses, and killed people, but I knew that if anything happened to me it would be as God willed, so I was not afraid.

"One day, I shall never forget. I had eaten my dinner and sat down in the shade of a tree near the Ojo de Agua and had fallen asleep. I woke suddenly and saw I was surrounded by a party of Comanche Indians, some armed with bows and arrows and some with guns, and all looking very fierce and angry . Some of them wanted to kill me, but the Chief interfered and said no—that I should go with them and be an Indian. So they rounded up the cattle and horses—they did not want the goats and sheep, though they killed some of them and carried the meat with them. They put me on my horse and tied my hands behind me with some rawhide thongs. They also fastened a thick cloth over my face so that I could not see which way we went or the trails we followed. An Indian took the reata of my horse in his hand to lead it, and then we started, driving the stock of the Cuatro Cienegas people before us.

"We traveled till dark, and then went into a rocky canyon and made camp. It was pitch dark and they took the cloth from my face, but did not untie my hands, except when they gave me something to eat, and then they tied them again quickly. All that I could see was that we were in a very wild and rocky canyon. Before daylight in the morning they blindfolded me again, put me on my horse with my hands tied, and we traveled again all day. It was very tiresome, and I tried to think of some way to escape. Every night I tried to think of a plan, but they watched me too closely, and there was never any chance, as they kept a guard awake all the time, for fear we might be followed.

"We traveled this way for four days, going many, many leagues, and I began to think I would never see my home and my family again. I did not let the Indians see me cry, but at night I could not help crying very much.

"On the night of the fourth day we camped in a very mountainous place, and by this time I was feeling so sad that I did not care whether the Indians killed me or not. I was determined to get away if I could. The Indians were very tired, and they were now so far from Cuatro Cienegas that they were no longer afraid of pursuit, so they set no guard that night as they had done before. They all laid down and soon all were asleep. But I could not sleep. I was too sad. After awhile I saw that all were sound asleep, so I got up very quietly from where I was lying between two of them. If any one woke I was going to tell them I wanted a drink of water. I went very slowly and cautiously to the spring of water that made this a camping place. My hands were tied behind me with some rawhide thongs, but I knew very well how to loosen them by wetting them. So I sat down with my back to the water and reached down into it until the thongs were covered with it. Soon they began to get soft, and then I stretched and stretched them until at last they came off and my hands were free, but they were very sore and tired.

"I put the thongs in my pocket so that the Indians could not find them and know that I was free, and then I went away from the camp farther up into the rugged gulch, as I knew when the Indians left they would go the other way to the mouth of the canyon. I stepped and jumped from rock to rock, and did not walk in the sand or on the ground, so as not to leave any trail for the Indians to follow. At last I found a little cave or crevice under some rocks, and in such a lonely and hidden place that I did not believe they could find me. I crawled into it and arranged some loose rocks in front, and then I laid down and went to sleep, after praying to the Virgin of Guadalupe to protect me, as my mother had taught me to do. When I woke it was broad daylight and I could hear the Comanches hunting for me and calling to each other. You may be sure I kept very quiet and did not move. But they did not find me, and at last they started away with their stolen cattle and horses.

"I stayed in the cave a long time, for fear some one had remained behind to watch for me, but after waiting several hours I crawled out and looked around. I did not know where I was. I had never been in that country so far from my home, away out on the desert, and knew nothing about it. But I took a long drink at the spring and ate a little jerky (dried meat) that I had hidden in my shirt and which I had stolen from the Indians' supply the night before when my hands were untied to let me eat.

"I did not know which way to go in order to get back to my home, though I had tried my best all the time the Indians had me to remember or to see in what direction we were traveling. I sat down and thought what was the best thing to do. Then I remembered that while travelling, all the morning the sun shone directly on my back and that all the afternoon it shone straight into my face. This I could tell even though I was blindfolded. So I concluded that if I changed this about, and traveled in the morning with the sun in my face and in the afternoon kept it on my back, I would surely come to Cuatro Cienegas

A Land of Buried Treasure

Where One Can Surfeit Himself With Tales of Untold Hidden Wealth, Many Being Well Founded

II

THE mining camp of Velardeña, in the State of Durango, and its vicinity are the locality of a number of buried-treasure stories. It is an old bandit haunt, and for this reason these tales have a basis of reason. One of them that seemed well founded enough to admit of the expenditure of considerable money, time and labor was the secret of an old man in another portion of the Republic, who was attended free of charge in his last illness by an American physician. Just before he passed away the sick man gave the doctor a faded, worn and tattered bit of paper upon which was a chart showing the location of a vast treasure buried near Velardeña. This treasure consisted of several hundred "cargas"—a carga is 350 pounds more or less in weight—of gold and silver bullion, which was said to be hidden in a deep and tortuous cave in the hills several miles from the mining camp named. The account given by the dying man was that the leader of a party of bandits that had accumulated large treasure, aided by two assistants, secreted it in the place mentioned. The spot selected was a natural cave resembling a crude mining shaft at its entrance, which began near the summit of a limestone hill, ran downward at an angle of something like sixty degrees for fifty or sixty feet, then turned and was practically level for a short distance; then ran directly down, and so on, alternating for a couple of hundred feet, more or less, as was estimated. Each of the perpendicular descents was provided with a "chicken ladder," or the notched log that was universally used in mines until after the advent of the modern construction, though it is indeed still used in some of the remote sections. The bandit chief selected two of his companions as aids in secreting the treasure, such assistance being necessary on account of its bulk. It was stored away in the furthermost recess of the cavern and covered over with broken rock, earth and bat guano. While occupied in filling the last "up-raise" of the shaft the chief coolly killed both his companions and covered their bodies deeply with earth and rock from the surface. It was this chief who drew up the ancient document and bequeathed it to his descendants, passing from father to son, who, being in another portion of the country, had never had the opportunity to follow it up. The slaying of the assistant bandits was mentioned, with the fact that if their bones were found unmolested in the shaft it could be taken as proof that the treasure had never been recovered.

The doctor to whom the document was bequeathed, being of an adventurous turn, decided to investigate. After considerable trouble he finally located the spot described, being in a lonely little canyon in a range of hills near Velardeña. He denounced the location as a mining claim, and began operations. The "cave" or shaft at the entrance was nearly filled with fallen rock and earth, and presented no indication of having been disturbed for many decades. Men were put to work, the shaft cleaned out, and found to be exactly as had been described in the chart. The quite well-preserved skeletons of two men were found as described, buried in earth and guano, the skull of each showing plainly enough the manner of death that had befallen them.

The first perpendicular descent, with its decayed "chicken ladder," was also found, and this portion of the shaft cleared out. By this time, however, what with the absence of any possibility of ventilation, the tortuous character of the passages and shafts, the choking fumes of the bat guano filling the air, it became entirely impossible to proceed further, despite high wages offered the peones, and the doctor was reluctantly forced to give up the search.

Subsequently the writer was invited to join a friend who had fallen heir to the treasure chart, and a careful examination of the locality and of the cave was made. It was found impossible to make headway in the absence of some method of ventilation, and it was finally concluded that the only feasible plan was to engage an engineer, determine as far as possible the trend of the underground passageways, then to drive a tunnel from the foot of the hill, and at the selected point begin an upraise in order to strike the putative treasure chamber from below. A little calculation demonstrated that the expense of driving the tunnel and upraise would be several thousand dollars, and as neither had the required amount, the project was relegated to companionship with various others of like nature to await a propitious time.

And so the treasure presumably lies there still, waiting for some venturesome person willing to risk a few thousand dollars on a purely gambler's chance!

In this same portion of the State of Durango is the famous Robbers' Cave of Huarichi Canyon, in which an American section boss on the old International Railroad close by unearthed enough buried booty to enable him to return to the "States," buy a farm and settle down to a life of comfort and much more ease than was possible in his avocation in Mexico.

Here, too, is the site of the lost treasure of the Nazas River. This has for years been a favorite with treasure hunters, and always has eluded search, though it is one of the best authenticated of the flood of stories and traditions in this region. The story goes, and is said to be backed by documentary evidence, that during the French occupation under Maximilian (the man who virtually committed suicide by decreeing that any one taken while bearing arms against the country should be promptly and inexorably executed, which decree was turned against himself at the first opportunity), a paymaster of the invading forces was on his way to the city of Durango with a pack train conveying a very large sum—put at four hundred thousand dollars—in coin for the purpose of paying off the troops in that section. His errand became known to the patriotic forces and he was attacked. He stood off the enemy as best he could, but being outnumbered and in imminent danger of capture, took refuge in a hacienda on the bank of the Nazas River—a village rather than a farmhouse, for it was an aggregation of a large number of buildings encircled, as was the custom, by a solid wall.

Finally, finding himself hard pressed, most of his men having been killed by the besieging force, the officer in charge of the money secreted it so thoroughly and so well with his own hands, taking no one so far as was ever known into his confidence and leaving no record beyond the fact that it was hidden somewhere within the hacienda walls, that no one has ever been able to recover it. He himself soon after lost his life, leaving the secret to no one. Many searches have been made for this treasure. Walls have been torn down, excavations made in every direction, yet no trace has ever been found of the wealth. If it ever shall be discovered, it will doubtless be by pure accident.

A little girl playing in the patio of a private residence in the city of Culiacan, which was used as a school, saw something shining in the beaten earth of the playground. Without

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after awhile. So I did this. I traveled almost as fast on foot as the Indians had on horseback, because they had to drive the stolen cattle and horses before them and could not go very fast.

"I found some tunas (nopal cactus fruit), which I ate, and the jerky I stole from the Indians lasted me a long time. I knew the desert water signs too, my father having taught me, and so I got along very well, though sometimes I was very thirsty, as the water is very far apart.

"But I was so glad to get away from the Indians that I did not mind that. At last, on the afternoon of the fifth day after I got away from the Indians, I came in sight of the Cuatro Cienegas valley through the Sierra Mojada pass, and recognized it. In a few hours more (it was after sunset), I walked into my parents' house. My mother was very much frightened and thought I was a ghost, for they all believed the Indians had killed me. They all thought it was a very wonderful thing that I had done, but I could not see that. It was the only thing to do if I ever expected to see my family again. After that they always sent a man with a gun to guard the herd while pasturing, and did not let a boy go alone. But I would never have escaped from the Indians and got safely back to my home if I had not remembered about the sun.

"Yes, I was only eight years old, but I had always remembered what my father taught me."

being observed by her companions, she dug it up with her fingers, found it was an old and battered piece of jewelry, and took it to her teacher, telling her where she had found it. The teacher took charge of the find, lectured the little one very severely (she was only six or seven years old), and cautioned her that great trouble would surely follow any divulgence of the discovery! She dismissed school early that afternoon, sending the little one home under a pledge of absolute secrecy. That night the teacher labored in the patio with pick and shovel all by herself, so it was afterwards learned. Next day there was no school. The teacher sent word among her patrons that she was indisposed. There never was any more school in that house or under that teacher. In a few days she took the stage coach for Mazatlan, carrying with her a very heavy chest, although she had always been known as having very few possessions. After a while she returned, but did not reopen her school. On the contrary, she soon began buying property, and in a short time had sufficient to enable her and her relatives to live in comfort upon the rentals.

The little girl herself told me this story when she was old and still poor. "I was very foolish," she said. "The teacher frightened me and I never said anything even to my parents for a long while, and then it was too late. I should have made her divide with me, but I did not know enough to do that. But it is as God wills."

Just across the street in Culiacan from the residence of the lady who told me this story was the beautiful home of a wealthy citizen.

"Do you see that house, Señor?" she asked me. I saw it.

"Good! When I knew that man first, a number of years ago, he was poor and worked hard. All his family were poor. He was so poor he worked in his own garden. But one day while digging there in order to plant a tree he found two large ollas (earthen jars) filled with treasure, money and jewels. He tried to keep it a secret, so as to prevent the Government from taking half of it away from him, and managed in some way to escape so large a contribution. Those things can be done if you have money! But in a little while he bought the land and built that large house in place of the little one he had lived in, and he purchased a fine hacienda a few miles from town. He also bought some more houses here in the city, and some in Mazatlan as well. For many years he and his family have not had to work except to take care of their property, and they have passed their lives in luxury, while I—look at my house!"

She rented rooms for a living!

The writer has had in his possession, and it is still at his service, an old account book which once belonged to a former Government official and private banker in one of the larger cities of Mexico. In this book is told in the handwriting of the owner the story of a buried treasure that is calculated to arouse the most skeptical.

The record dates back many, many years. The owner of the account book was in business in the city referred to, and many of the transactions involving large amounts of money are told therein. There came a revolution and it was necessary for him to make a hasty departure. This was before the days of railroads or massive bank vaults. So the official-banker reserved as much coin as he could conveniently carry without attracting undue and unpleasant attention, and the rest, to use his own words, "I was obliged to bury in a wooden box in the patio of my house." Then follows a detailed list of the valuables hidden. It includes jewelry of all kinds, unset stones and pearls, gold and silver coin and other objects, of a total value of several hundred thousand dollars. Having secreted this treasure in some exact spot known only to himself, the owner fled the country, finally arriving safely in New Orleans. He remained there three years, in the meantime marrying an American lady. At the end of the period noted there came a counter-revolution and he was able to return safely to his former home. He set out by boat for Vera Cruz with his wife, and reached Mexico City in safety. There he began preparations for the journey by coach to the city where his home was located, but before these were completed he was attacked by a sudden illness and died in a very few hours thereafter. The widow, friendless and alone in a foreign country, returned to her native land without having attempted to recover the treasure or even to visit the city where it was hidden.

But the story is all set down in black and white, and it should be no insuperably difficult matter for some one to find the house which was occupied by the official, while it ought not to be altogether impossible to locate the buried valuables. Buildings change very little in the older cities, the same ones remain without alteration for generations, and once located, it would require no great amount of time or labor to thoroughly investigate the patio and what may be hidden therein.

The natives have a strange belief in this connection. It is, that wherever there is treasure hidden in the ground, a phosphorescent light may be seen hovering over it at night. That is the chosen time for digging for treasure, both in order to escape observation by the authorities and also as a precaution against too curious neighbors or passers-by. Frequently one will see an area of a few hundred square feet upon which dozens of pits have been dug, and inquiry will disclose that lights have been seen there at night, and as a consequence the search for treasure trove is greatly stimulated.

Sitting about a camp-fire one night buried treasure was the subject of conversation, and the popular belief regarding these mysterious lights was referred to as a superstition. One of the company was a Mexican gentleman of good birth and education, intelligent to a degree and not apt to be credulous or superstitious, and finally the writer addressed him.

"Don Antonio, why is it that the natives have the superstition about a light hovering over buried treasure? How did they ever get such an idea?"

"Because it is true," replied the person addressed, in the most matter of fact and convincing manner, but to our unbounded surprise.

"True! What do you mean?"

"I mean exactly what I say. It is true that a phosphorescent light hovers at night over hidden treasure. I know this, because I myself proved it! My brother and myself saw such a light one night, and we dug in the earth beneath it. We found a jar containing several thousand dollars in old Spanish coins. We did not dare to try to dispose of it in that shape, so we melted it down in a crucible, ran it into bars and sold it at the mint in Culiacan as bullion from a mine. We had enough to buy a good ranch with the proceeds, and no one ever knew where we had obtained it. Of course I believe in the light. Why should I not?"

Why, indeed?

There is a cave in the State of Coahuila which the writer has always intended visiting when the opportune time presents itself. It is two or three days' ride into the desert and in a remote locality. A goatherder camping in the place one night found some old blackened bits of metal which upon being cleaned proved to be gold coins of an early Spanish king. They were discovered in the loose earth and guano on the floor of the cave and may fairly be taken as an indication of the probable presence of other coins of the same character if diligent search were made.

Near Tepic City is a hidden treasure of bandit origin for which many have sought, but so far in vain. One American who had what he believed to be an infallible chart of the location spent many years and much money in the fruitless search, and finally lost his reason.

In the house occupied by the writer and some companions in Tepic City popular report said there was a buried treasure guarded by the ghost of an old man who had hidden it. At all events, no one could be persuaded to live in the place. Hearing the tale, we had a couple of sounding rods made of sharp steel some six feet in length, with which we prodded the loose granulated pumice stone that underlies most dwellings in that city three or four feet in depth. Finally one of the rods hit some obstacle and refused to penetrate further. With doors and windows closed so as to avoid observation, a pick and shovel were utilized and an excavation made which disclosed a rusty old lock and an iron handle that had manifestly once belonged to a heavy box of some kind. But there was no treasure. Some one had anticipated us, it was plain enough to be seen!

The foregoing are but a few of the many stories of kindred nature that have come to the writer's attention while traveling in various portions of Mexico. There is no village or town of any size without its hidden treasure story and persistent seekers.

The Mexico-American Question

A Well-Known Californian's Views on the Relations Between the Two Republics

MR. NELSON C. RHOADES, well known in California and on the West Coast of Mexico, some time since delivered a lengthy and most interesting address before the Association for American-Mexican Amity, from which the following extracts are taken. They are especially noteworthy as coming from a man of long experience in Mexico, with large interests there, yet breathing a spirit of fairness and friendship quite foreign to too great a portion of what has been written and spoken regarding the same subject.

Mexican Independence

"The independence of the Mexican people was ushered in through the Empire of Iturbide under the flag of the red, white and green; white for religious purity; red, union of Spaniards and Mexicans; green, independence; known as the flag of the 'Three Guarantees.' The Empire was repudiated two years later, the stripes changed from horizontal to vertical, and it became the emblem of the Republic ushered in during 1824.

"It is an interesting fact, not generally understood, that our world-famed and respected 'Monroe Doctrine' was the outcome of the banishment of Spain from Mexico. Statesmen of that time, comprehending Mexico's need and animated by what they considered to be the duty of our people in support and preservation of the original American civilization, promulgated that doctrine, making it broad enough to cover defense of the newer nations forming the continental family.

"With the establishment of the Mexican Republic, and the retirement of the last Spanish troops, President Monroe of the United States, in his message to Congress in December, 1823, set up his famous

Monroe Doctrine

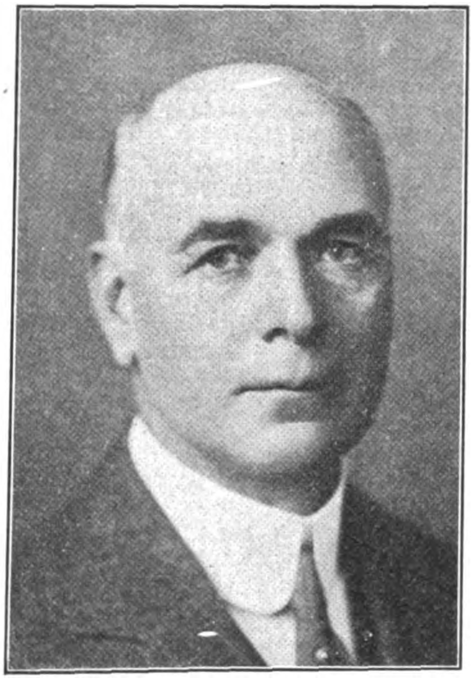
"'(1) The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they assumed and maintained, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any foreign power;

"'(2) Any attempt on the part of European powers to extend their political systems to any portion of the Western Hemisphere would be considered dangerous to the peace and safety of the United States. Any interposition by such powers for the purpose of opposing or controlling the governments which have declared their independence and maintained it, and whose independence had been acknowledged by the United States, could not be viewed in any other light than as a manifestation of an unfriendly disposition to the United States; that the political system of European powers could not be extended to any portion of either of the American continents without endangering the peace and happiness of the United States, nor would such extension be regarded with indifference.'

"To this declaration on the part of our Government, growing out of Mexico's needs and promulgated for her particular benefit, although formed to protect alike all local governments of the continent, Mexico owes a debt of gratitude for the privilege she has since enjoyed of working out her own destiny free from foreign interference.

Intervention Cannot Be Justified

"Races were at one time the essential elements entering into the composition of civilization, but with the gradual fusion of the races, nations came to represent the individual principles for which component races had stood; to obliterate a nation to-day is to destroy some essential element now working to the evolution of the world's destiny; to subjugate one nation to the absolute will and domination of another temperamentally opposite is of equally evil effect.



Nelson C. Rhoades

"The principle of civilization is based upon improvement, not destruction, and only the barbaric and uncivilized are bettered by the processes of subjugation; peoples do not reach nationality and self-government through the leadings of another by whom they are dominated, but through their own self-struggle.

"We cannot assume that the high standard of our own nationality justifies its infliction upon a race less fortunate; nor must we assume that their own nationality is destined to obliteration because of internecine conflict, however lamentably horrifying its extent. Individuals, nations and races are purged by self-conflict, and the degree of purification is frequently measured by the gravity of such conflict.

"Universal perfection comes through the continuous destruction of individual betterments. Nature, the great leveller, is ever engaged in the reduction of advanced, sporadic reform on the one hand and the elimination of evil on the other, the bringing of humanity to a higher common average.

"We may be the *American people*, but we are not the *original Americans*. We are a composite nation made up originally from the heterogeneous wanderlings from all nations. Providence and the millings of time and labor have transformed us into a homogeneous mass with well-formed ties of common interest, and formed us into a more or less perfect political entity working in common unity for the higher ideals of a world's civilization. By however high purposes and ideals our present status has been attained, there are regrettable blots on the pages of our past history.

"Let us always remember the *American Indian*, 'lest we forget!' By no high course of action can we justify our treatment of him. We coined into our national creed the synonimity of 'good Indian' and 'dead Indian,' and his race has disappeared from the national activities of this continent. We can only console ourselves that he was a *savage* branch of the *original American* family.

"The civilized portion of that family, the Mexican people, still remains. They have fought the battle, not of centuries but of ages, for their self-preservation, and are nearer to the point of happy realization to-day than ever before. What shall be our attitude toward them? Shall we lay the axe of subjugation to the roots of their national spirit, or, chastened by knowledge of injury done by us to the lost branch of their people, redeem our own ideals by holding up their hands in the hour of weakness and inspiring them in their course?

"The 'Mexican Question' is not one of the personal interests of Americans in that country; nor is it one of indignity to the flag of the United States. Both the above matters are grave sources of concern and for violation of our rights in the former case we have a long-known and well-established remedy. Indignity to our flag must at all times be immediately met with such resistance or defense as the indignity justifies and the indignity punished forcefully and without vacillation. The protection of the flag will make unnecessary any special defense of 'American interests.' These questions are incidental and do not reach to the preservation of *nationality* or *race*.

"'Mexico' is not a political issue, neither is it a question of what any administration has done or has failed to do, nor is it a question of men, personalities or parties.

"To-day the destiny of a nation forming the remnants of the oldest civilized race on the continent is in the balance. *That* is the 'Mexican Question,' and our 'Monroe Doctrine' and the demands of the world's civilization make the United States the arbiter.

"Our history has recorded precedents showing us to be in principle opposed to any intervention which might mean the imposition of our Government in substitution of their own, and commit us to a maintenance of the *original Americans*—the Mexicans—in the perpetuation of their race and the enjoyment of their own nationality.

"*First*—1823. The 'Monroe Doctrine,' promulgated to that end for their benefit.

"*Second*—1848. The 'Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo,' by the terms of which, after occupying the country by force of arms, we retired, leaving the Mexican Government intact and pledging ourselves to future amity.

"*Third*—1865. Our demands upon France as a result of which their armies were withdrawn from Mexico, the Second Empire failed, and the Mexican national life was again resumed.

"Shall we, in this advanced civilization, reverse the doctrine?

"Shall we trust that an armed intervention 'for the purpose of establishing stable government in Mexico and under our protection bringing them to self-government' will not turn to one of spoliation and acquisition of territory?

Personal Safety

"There is always a certain amount of danger in a region of active war; that is, the danger which applies to individuals alike, without regard to their nationality. Extraordinary precautions have always been taken by the armed forces of the country to protect foreign life. Those foreigners who have traveled about the country during these periods of war have suffered inconveniences, due to its disorganized condition, but where they have been experienced in the country, speaking its language and being in sympathetic contact with the people, no personal danger has been observed. Persons unacquainted with the language or customs, who have failed to display proper tact by moving about through armed forces, have suffered as a result of their ignorance. Others have suffered because of their own personal violent manners; but during all of the crises which have swept over the country from time to time some Americans have always been found between the lines and within the forces engaged in personal conflict, and have almost always come out safely. Persons of long experience have lived in isolated places within the Republic through the entire war and are there to-day in numbers, and rarely have they any complaint whatever of personal inconvenience or abuse. It is important that those foreigners who desire to obviate difficulty carry no arms while within the country. Strict attention to one's own affairs, a pleasant smile and sympathetic conversation with the citizens, and respect for authority is the best protection one can have—better, indeed, than the personal guarantees of the American Government."

The authorities of the City of Mexico have opened numerous places for the sale of corn to the people at lower prices than demanded by dealers. This is grain that is being brought from the United States as well as other portions of the Republic, and the amount sold is limited to nine pounds to each person daily.

LIC. RAMON OBREGON
CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
MEXICO, D. F. MONTE DE PIEDAD
P. O. B. NO. 598 NO. 13

LAW REGARDING UNCULTIVATED LANDS

After lengthy discussion the Chamber of Deputies has approved the proposed law regarding the utilization of lands whose owners neglect or refuse to cultivate them. The use of these lands is declared to be a public utility. The manner of their use is left to the State Congresses and the local municipal authorities. The original owners of the lands shall receive nothing in compensation from the persons cultivating them, but the local governments shall receive a certain percentage of the crops grown. Allotments shall be made to all applicants, within certain restrictions as to the area granted each person. These allotments are for one year, covering two harvest seasons, and the lands must be returned to the owners without damage at the end of that time, to be again allotted unless the proprietor shall himself put them under cultivation. The design is to have all the cultivable land in the Republic made productive, so far as is possible, and to afford the landless an opportunity to raise crops and become self-supporting. Aid will be given to applicants who do not have the necessary machinery or seed.

The National Chamber of Commerce proposes to establish a commercial bank of Mexico City in order to supply the needs for such an institution, the other banks having signally failed to do this. It will commence operations with a capital of $2,000,000 Mexican gold.

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

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Free Education Provided for All

Mexican Review

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ENLIGHTENMENT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RESPECT TO THE HOPES AMBITIONS BENEFICENT INTENTIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTIONALIST GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO

VOL. II WASHINGTON, D. C., JANUARY, 1918. NO. 4

Celia Treviño, the Seven-Year-Old Mexican Violinist Marvel

TEN CENTS THE COPY

Free Education For All

Provisions of the Proposed Law for Carrying Out the Stipulations of the New Constitution in This Connection

ARTICLE 1. In the Mexican Republic instruction is free. Consequently the inhabitants of the Federal District, of the Territories and of the States have the right to demand primary education in all its grades, the preparatory and the professional, and to establish industrial, commercial, normal, and arts and trades schools according to the plans of studies and programs that they may deem necessary; to hold examinations and other school or university acts, according to the rules that they may establish, and to grant whatever titles, degrees, or diplomas they may see fit, without any further limitations or requirements than those provided for in this law.

Article 2. The State is strictly compelled to impart and to carefully see that primary education is diffused to the minors of both sexes, from the age of seven years up to fourteen, inclusive. This obligation will have been fulfilled only in the industrial centers, small settlements and rustic farms after the student has passed all the branches comprehended in the program of studies in rudimentary primary instruction; and regarding the other places, after the student has passed at least all the branches comprehended in the program of studies in elemental primary instruction.

Article 3. It is lawful to establish and maintain in the State, secondary, preparatory or professional schools, as well as schools of sciences, of fine arts, of technical instruction; schools of practical agriculture, of Arts and Trades; normal schools, museums and libraries, observatories and other institutions affecting the general higher culture of the inhabitants of the Republic, according to the importance, necessity and other circumstances of each locality.

Article 4. The primary instruction that will be diffused in the Mexican Republic will be in all its respects:

I—National; that is, there shall be scrupulous care that in all the scholars is developed the love of country (Mexico) and of democratic institutions.

II—Integral; that is, it shall simultaneously tend to cause the moral, physical, intellectual and aesthetic development of the scholars. Military instruction will be included in physical culture.

III—Laical; that is, natural respect towards all religious beliefs, and the professors and teachers will refrain from teaching about or defending or attacking any of them.

IV—Obligatory, or compulsory, to all minors of both sexes, from the age of seven years up to fourteen, inclusive. Besides, in the official schools, primary instruction will be free.

Article 5. No religious corporation, nor minister of any belief whatsoever, will be allowed to establish or direct schools of primary instruction.

Article 6. Private primary schools can only be established subject to official vigilance and inspection.

Article 7. The official vigilance and inspection will have for its object the compliance by the private primary schools with the requirements provided for in Sections I, II and III, of Article 4, of this law; for this purpose the supreme school authority of each locality shall appoint whenever it may deem convenient or necessary a professor who will assist by witnessing the performance of any professorship, and to appoint one or more professors who will be incorporated with those whom the private school will name as the examining jury who will proceed with the annual and professional examinations. Besides, the vigilance and inspection referred to in this article will have as its object the purpose of seeing that the provisions contained in Article 9 of this law are also complied with.

Article 8. For the effects of Section I of Article 4 of this law, the directors of private schools of primary instruction shall submit every year, before the opening of the school term, for the approval of the general directors of the Boards of Primary Education, the text-books that will be used for the diffusion, in those establishments, of the subjects of Natural History, Practical Morals, Civic Education and Constitutional Law.

Article 9. The buildings in which may be established private schools of primary instruction, will subject themselves to the rules of pedagogical hygiene that will be dictated for the official schools.

Article 10. The private institutions of primary instruction that shall violate the dispositions contained in Article 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9 of this law, will be suspended by the highest political authority of each locality at the request or recommendation of the General Directors of the Boards of Education of each place.

Article 11. In order that the studies that are taught in the private schools of primary instruction, or the certificates that will be issued by them, may have the same value in the official schools, it is an indispensable requirement that the former shall employ in their methods of instructions the same plans, programs and methods that will be enforced in the official primary school.

Article 12. For the effect of the foregoing Article (11), the directors of private schools of primary instruction who desire to have the recognition of the value of the studies that will be taught in them should submit for the approval of the Councils or Boards of Primary Education of each municipality, the plans and programs of studies of the private school concerned, and to definitely express their willingness to comply in what concerns them with the dispositions of this law.

Article 13. The commercial, industrial, arts and trades, and normal schools founded or maintained by private parties, will be strictly obliged to adhere themselves to the dispositions of Sections I, II and III of Article 4, and to the dispositions of Articles 5, 6, 8 and 9 of this law, in regard to the primary instruction that will be taught in them, under the approval provided for in Article 10.

Article 14. Likewise shall be enforced in the schools mentioned in the foregoing Article the provisions contained in Articles 11 and 12 of this law.

Article 15. The Governments of the States, of the Federal District and of the Territories, shall render annually, to those private schools that may have complied with the requirements provided for in this law, the aid that they may need for their maintenance and improvement.

Article 16. The diffusion of official instruction in its diverse categories, will be confined in the Federal District and the Territories, to the requirements that will be established by the special laws and regulations; but said laws and regulations will be in conformity with the following rules:

I—No one will be examined on any subject whatsoever that requires one year of study without having previously passed an examination on the subjects of the last immediate lower year.

II—No one will be allowed to take up studies of superior primary instruction without proving that he (or she) has had and passed the previous years of elementary primary instruction.

III—No one will be allowed to take up the studies of preparatory instruction without having previously proven that he (or she) has had and passed the studies of superior primary instruction.

IV—No one will be allowed to take up studies for a career or profession without having previously proven that he (or she) has had and passed the respective studies of preparatory instruction.

V—No one will be examined for a profession without having previously proven that he (or she) has had and passed the subjects comprehended in the program of studies for the profession or career concerned.

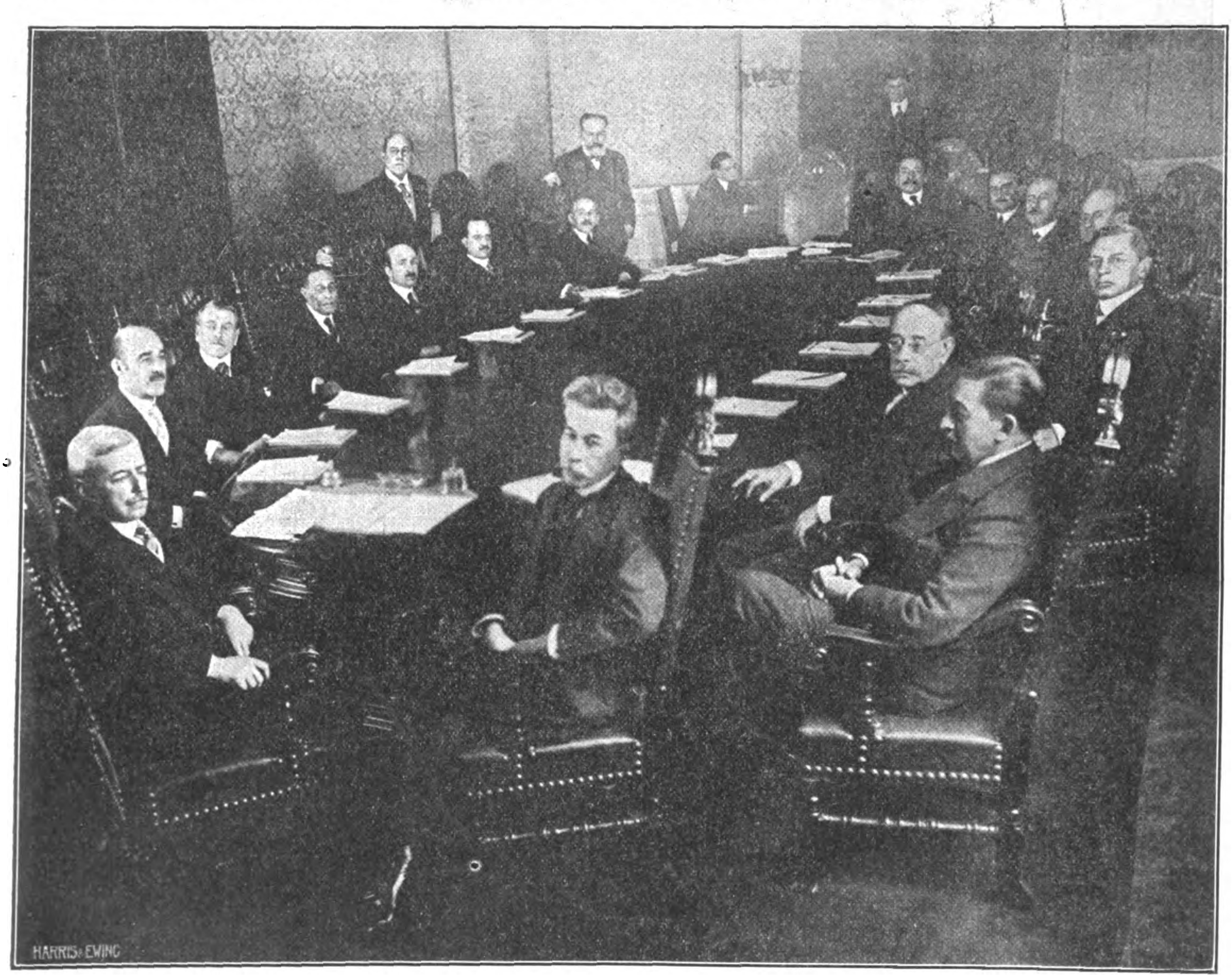
VI—In none of the instances cited by the foregoing sections will the subjects of studies comprehended in the respective programs be set aside.

Article 17. All the certificates of studies, duly legalized, and issued by any of the official institutions of education, will be valid in the Mexican Republic. Likewise will be valid certificates of studies that may be issued by the private schools that have adhered themselves to the provisions of this law.

Article 18. With exception as to what is provided, or what may be provided for in the treaties that the Republic might celebrate with other nations, the following only will be valid in the country: The certificates of studies issued by foreign schools or universities, after the applicant has proven through an examination, which will be held in the manner and terms provided for the official schools, that said certificates represent studies that are alike, or scientifically equal in value, to those respectively required by the laws and regulations that might be in force in the Federal District, in the States or Territories.

Article 19. With the view to standardizing in the Republic the diffusion of official primary instruction, and in order to make effective the compliance to Article 3 of the Constitution, there shall be held every two years, at the expense of the Federal Executive, a Congress of Primary Instruction (or education), in which will be represented each of the Federal Entities and the Executive of the Union.

The Executive of the Union shall regulate as soon as possible the organization and procedures of said Educational Congress.



Directive Council of the Pan-American Union

In the foreground, Secretary Lansing; to his left, Ambassador Bonillas; on the right, Ambassador de Gama of Brazil; followed by Ambassador Aldunate of Chile, Minister Calderon of Bolivia, Minister Mendez of Guatemala, Minister Zaldivar of Salvador, Minister Elizalde of Ecuador, Dr. de Freyrey Santander of Peru, Sr. Diaz of Honduras, Sr. Galvan representing Santo Domingo, Minister Urueta of Colombia, Minister Dominici of Venezuela, Minister Menos of Haiti, and Minister de Pena of Uruguay; standing at the left, Messrs. Barrett and Yanes, Director General and sub-Director, respectively.

RAILWAY CONSOLIDATION AND IMPROVEMENT

The National Railway of Tehuantepec, the Pan-American Railway of the South, and the Mexican Railway have had their administration consolidated under a single management instead of three as heretofore. This has been done for purposes of economy as well as of more effective operation, as these lines cover rail communication between the east and the west coasts. Improvements in various directions, including the acquisition of rolling stock that is necessary, will now be carried out.

The company formed to carry out the concession granted for a railway between the cities of San Luis Potosi and Guadalajara reports that it has placed subscriptions for $11,000,000 of its stock among local property owners and capitalists, which is half of the total amount needed. The necessary surveys have been completed and work of construction will be commenced immediately. This link will give direct communication between gulf of Mexico ports, and those of the Pacific ocean.

All the preliminaries have been completed for the construction of a railway connecting Tampico and Tuxpam, which will be about 100 miles in length and will be of great value in developing the petroleum industry.

MARVELOUS CHILD VIOLINIST

The frontispiece of this issue of The Mexican Review is the portrait of little seven-year-old Celia Treviño, a grandniece of President Carranza of Mexico, and who has been entertaining audiences in the Southwest by her mastery of the violin and the artistic manner in which she renders most difficult classical and other music. It having been discovered by her parents that she was possessed of rare talent in this direction, she was less than a year ago put under the instruction of competent teachers and a short time since made her first appearance before a large audience in the city of San Antonio, Texas, after having had less than six months' instruction. She entranced her hearers with the charm of her manner as well as with her rendition of the compositions interpreted by her. It seems unbelievable that with such brief study she should have been able to handle such a diffi-

(*Continued on page 9*)

Settlement of Damage Claims

A Commission to be Appointed Which Shall Adjudicate All Such Matters—Final Arbitration Provided

BY VIRTUE of the powers conferred by Congress upon the President of the Republic as to the conduct of the financial branch of the Government, that official has issued the following decree covering the settlement of damage claims arising from the revolutionary troubles of the past seven years:

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Popocatapetl as Seen From the "Knees" of Ixtaccihuatl

Article 1. In conformity to the decree of the 10th of May, 1913, issued at Monclova, Coah., by the Citizen First Chief of the Constitutionalist Army, a Commission dependent on the Ministry of Finance is hereby established at the City of Mexico, which Commission will inquire into the claims for indemnities suffered by persons or properties as consequences of the revolutionary movements that took place in the Republic from 1910 to 1917.

Article 2. Said Commission will be composed of a President and four vocals, who should be Mexican citizens by birth, and their appointment will be made by the President of the Republic. The Commission will appoint the secretaries and the rest of the personnel that may be required in its work.

Article 3. The proceedings to which the inquiry of the claims shall adhere will be determined by the regulations that will be issued as may be necessary by the Executive, which regulations will be according to the following bases:

A—The Commission shall receive all the claims that may be submitted to it, provided that the claimants have complied with the requirements of form that the Regulations may establish. After having received the claim, the Commission shall duly examine it, and if in its opinion the claim contains all the vital requirements established by the present law, it shall dictate a decision, declaring the admission of the claim.

B—The Commission shall without delay proceed to require from the corresponding authorities all the information that may be deemed necessary for the determination of the validity or invalidity of the claim, or for the exact determination of the amount that should be paid an indemnity. During this phase of the investigation, the proofs that may be deemed pertinent thereto by those interested will be received, but with the understanding that whatever might be the nature of the inquiries made, the final result of the same will be made known to the Commission through official written reports.

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Popocatapetl—Highest Peak in Mexico. Altitude 17.520 Feet

C—Once the proofs have been submitted and the information received, as mentioned in the foregoing article, the official documents containing them will be submitted to the examination of the interested party so that he may state in writing whatever he may deem convenient to his rights.

D—The Commission, in view of the statements contained in the official records, shall discuss and shall vote upon the claim, and it shall formulate the corresponding decision.

E—The interested party will be duly notified of the decision, and he shall convey in writing his approval or disapproval thereof.

F—The official record will then be brought to the knowledge of the Citizen President of the Republic, through the Ministry of Finance, for its final solution, provided the case does not concern foreigners who have expressed their approval of the decision of the Commission, for in that case steps will be taken according to the provisions contained in Article 13 of this law.

Article 4. The claim shall be submitted in writing in Spanish, and accompanied by the largest number possible of proofs that would tend to show the fact that the damages were really incurred and in order to justify the amount claimed for them; in them shall be stated the name, company or corporation; the nationality and the residence of the claimant, and therein shall be stated as accurately as possible the places where and the dates when the events that gave cause for the claims took place; also the persons that may have been concerned therein, as well as the nature of the damages sustained and the amount in national gold that the claimant might ask as indemnity.

Article 5. The Commission will admit only those claims based upon the following:

I—For damages caused by revolutionary forces, or forces recognized or acknowledged as such by the legitimate governments that may have been established in the republic upon the triumph of the Revolution.

II—Those damages by the same governments consequences of their functions during the struggle against the rebels; and

III—Those damages caused by the dependent forces of the so-called Federal Army, down to the time of its dissolution.

Article 6. The following persons cannot appeal to the benefits of this law. Those who are endowed with civil responsibilities, referred to by the transitory Article 15 of the Political Constitution of the Mexican United States, approved February 5th of the present year, for the effects of which application should be made to the Ministry of the Interior.

Article 7. The limit for the presentation of claims will expire three years after the date of this present law. The claims that resulted from the Revolution that was began in 1910, and which have been submitted to the Commission of Inquiry that was organized by virtrue of the law of 31st of May, 1913, will be considered as submitted within that time; the new Commission will take charge of them; it will take on hand the records just as they appear at the present time, and shall continue their investigation in accordance to the present law and its regulations.

Article 8. The claims can be based upon the destruction of private property; upon the requisitions or money, or valuables, animals, or merchandise, or whatever other damages were sustained on persons or properties, provided that those interested had not previously obtained payment for the respective claim for indemnity; never can claims be admitted for indemnities for damages, or for the loss of profits that may have been obtained and which were not obtained by reason of the state of war in which the country then existed.

Article 9. When the claims concerned are those whose value, according to the opinion of the claimant, does not exceed 5,000 pesos, and if the commission accepts the validity of the damages as proven, but at the same time it has not the necessary information to enable it to estimate with accuracy the amount that should be paid for indemnity, it could then determine said indemnity at its discretion, taking into consideration the economical and social condition of the claimant and the other circumstances in the case.

Article 10. From the fact that they have applied to the Commission in the administrative form provided by this law, it is understood that the claimants renounce their right to institute claims through judicial channels.

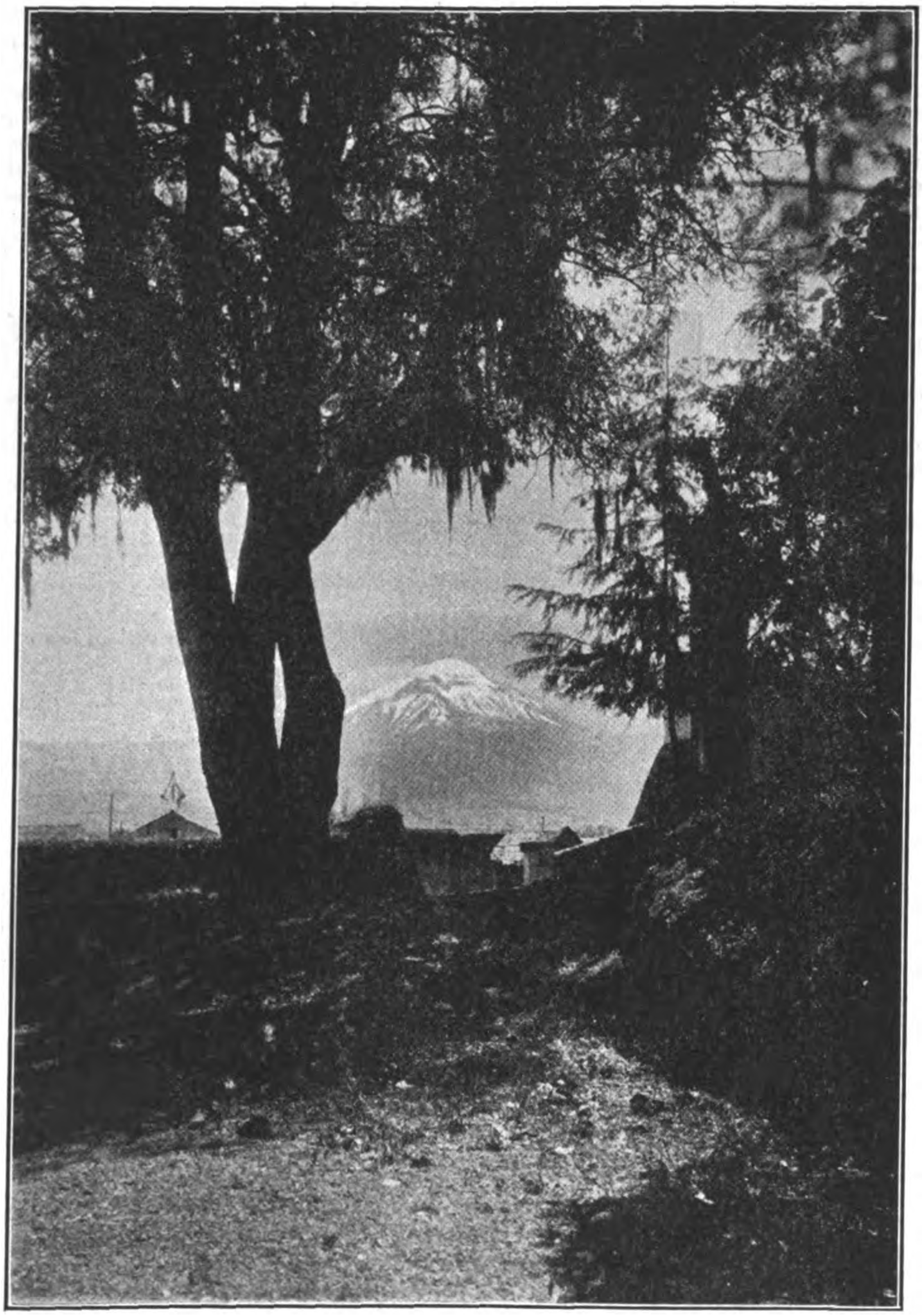
Article 11. The foreign claimants shall accompany their claims in writing with proofs as to their nationality, and those who fail to do so will be considered as Mexicans for the effects of this law, and as a consequence they will be considered as having renounced the right that they might have had to submit, later on, their claims through diplomatic channels.

Article 12. The companies whose capital is divided into shares, organized under the laws of the Republic, will be considered as Mexicans regarding their claims, even though all or some of their shareholders were foreigners.

Article 13. Those foreign claimants who after having duly proven such character as foreigners are not in accord with the inquisitory solution of the Commission, can submit their observations in person or through diplomatic channels.

Article 14. The decisions of the Commission relative to claims presented by foreigners, and to which those interested have objected in any of the two forms indicated in the foregoing article, will be submitted to a commission composed of three arbiters or judges, of whom one will be appointed by the President of the Republic, another by the Diplomatic Agent of the country to which the claimant belongs, and the third will be appointed by the mutual consent of those appointed. If they cannot agree, the third arbiter will be chosen by the President of the Republic among those citizens of a country who have no claims for damages caused by the Revolution. The appointment of the arbiters will be made in accordance to the dispositions of the regulations of this law, but with the understanding that none of the appointees will be endowed with a diplomatic or consular character.

Article 15. The arbitration commissions referred to in the foregoing article can only be organized for the purpose of inquiring into the facts of but one concrete case, or for the investigation of all the claims corresponding to claimants of the same nationality.



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Volcano of Popocatapetl, From a Distance

(Continued on page 11)

Issuing Agrarian Bonds

The Special Commission Appointed for Drawing Up a Plan Makes Its Report—The Projected Law

A special commission was some time since appointed to consider the matter of issuing agrarian bonds and to draw up a law covering the proposal. It has recently reported as follows:

"The Commission is aware of the fact that not only will the expropriations for the partition of lands give cause for indemnizations that should be covered with agrarian bonds, but that the reconstruction of communities, which in many places of the Republic will have to be done as endowments, if properly called, and not as restitutions, will likewise give cause for the expropriation of lands.

"The Commission, therefore, has believed it to be convenient to unite these two necessities, which are of the same nature, and for which on the other hand there would be no reason why they should be the object of two different kinds of bonds.

"The financial success of the circulation of the agrarian bonds is one of the main points of the study that the Commission had under consideration.

"The Commission has understood that the plurality of agrarian issues, especially if these are to be made by each of the States of the Republic, for different sums according to different authorizations, and perhaps with different rates of interest and different bases of amortization, would bring about as a consequence, a chaos in the circulation of the bonds.

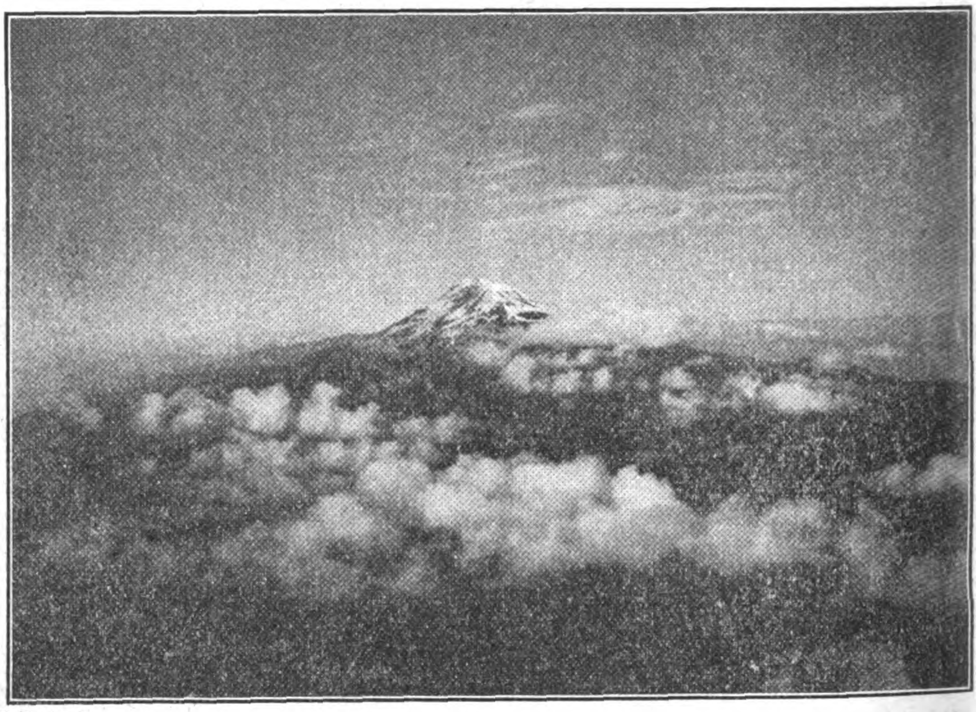
"Therefore the Commission believes, as an indispensable base for the success of the agrarian debt, that it is neccessary to avoid a plurality of issues and considers it to be convenient that there should be only one issue under the control of the Federal Government. So that it has been considered as convenient that the general issue should be uniform, as much in respect to the authority that issues it, as in respect to the form, denominations, sizes, processes of amortization, etc.

"The agrarian bonds, if they ever become of circulatory value and seriously negotiable, sooner or later will face the necessity of going outside the country, from where undoubtedly we will have to expect to obtain a large part of the capital that should aid us in our agrarian reconstruction.

"In this sense, the meaning of Fraction VIII of Article 117 of the Constitution, advises that the issues of these bonds be made under the guaranty of the Federal Government, the only one that is authorized to issue values that are negotiable or payable outside the national territory, inasmuch as these will be in the hands of private persons, or in the hands of foreign societies; however, these bonds should be represented by titles to the holder.

"The issue of the bonds will be made by the handing over by the Federation to each one of the States the amount of bonds necessary for making the payments that, as a whole, should be made, after an expropriation had been determined and its value established, for partition or for endowment of commons.

"When dealing on the amortization of the bonds, the Commission believed it necessary to consider the processes of amortization that in a certain way would interest the holders of partitioned lands, or the inhabitants of municipalities endowed with commons, and for that reason it has thought that besides dedicating to the amortization the sums that might be assigned in the Budget of General Disbursements and the amount of the securities made by the Municipalities and by the States on account of the very same agrarian debt, it would be convenient, and it is logical to admit, that the same shareholders could make use of the agrarian bonds in order to cover their obligations with the Governments of the States, in such a way that at the same time the shareholders are solving their obligations with the local governments, the latter are, in fact, amortizing their debt when they receive the bonds in payments.



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Popocatapetl as Seen From Ixtaccihuatl on a Cloudy Day

The Project of the Law

The resolutive part of this law, which remains to be discussed in Congress, is as follows:

Article 1. The Federal Executive is hereby authorized to issue agrarian bonds up to the amount of one thousand million pesos, in accordance with the following bases:

(a) The bonds will be exclusively dedicated to the payment for lands that will be necessary to expropriate in order to endow with commons those towns or communities that do not have them, or that may be necessary to divide in order to establish small agrarian properties.

(b) The bonds issued will be for denominations of one hundred, five hundred, one thousand, five thousand and ten thousand pesos.

(c) These bonds will be called "Agrarian Bonds".

(d) The term of amortization will be fifty years.

(e) The interest to be drawn by said bonds will be 4 per cent, including in said rate the part that corresponds to the amortization.

(f) The service of interest and amortization will be made every six months, for which purpose the bonds will have attached to them one hundred detachable coupons for the semi-annual payments.

Article 2. The fund for the interest and amortization of the agrarian bonds will be constituted as follows:

I. By means of the sums assigned for that purpose in the Federal Budget of Disbursements.

II. By means of the amounts that the municipalities, to which belong the communities that have been endowed with commons, or the States that may make the partitions, may pay on account of the agrarian debt incurred by one or the others either through the endowment of commons, or through the expropriation of lands for division.

Article 3. The agrarian bonds can likewise be amortized as follows:

(a) By receiving them for payments that the holders of fractions of lands should make on account of their obligations to the Governments of the States, District or Territory.

(b) By receiving them for payment of annuities that the holders of the commons should pay to the Municipalities for the use of the land.

(c) By receiving them in payment of a small proportion of the federal rent that should be paid on the duties of the real property.

Article 4. The issue of agrarian bonds will only be made in the form of payments to the proprietors of expropriated lands.

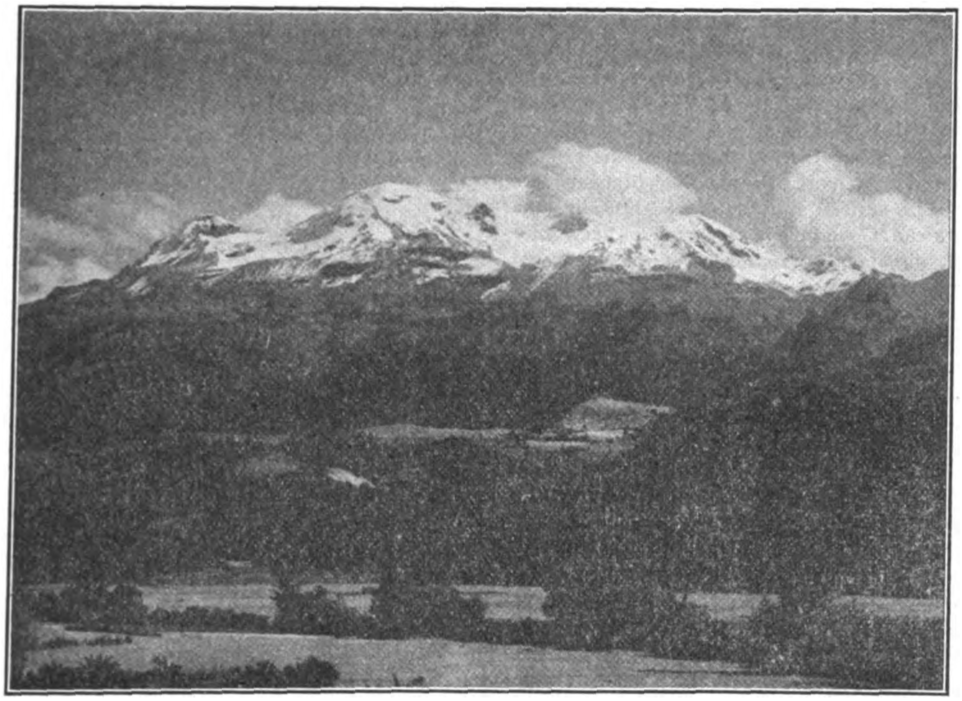
Article 5. Once the National Agrarian Commission has approved the endowment of commons to a town, or once the partition of a property has been approved by the Local Agrarian Commission, or by the agrarian authority to whom the law might grant this faculty, and when the amount that should be paid for the expropriated lands has been determined, the Federal Government shall hand over to the Government of the State the respective bonds with which to make the payments, re-sealing them by means of a visible and indelible seal, bearing the name of the State where the expropriation that caused the payment took place. Regarding the expropriations that should be effected in the Federal District or in the Territories, the payment shall be made through the Government of each one of these entities, re-sealing the bonds with the name of the entity that made the expropriation.

Article 6. The Agrarian Bonds will have the guaranty of the Federal Government and of the respective State, for the needs of which they were issued, but the service of interest and amortization will be directly made by the Federal Government.

The Federal Government, through the National Agrarian Commission, can object or make observations that it may deem just, regarding the value that has been given to the expropriated properties.

Article 7. The agrarian debt of each one of the States will be considered as a debt of the local entities to the Federation, in respect to the relations between the Federation and the States. The Federal Government shall take to each one of the States an account for agrarian matters (or materials), in which it shall charge the bonds issued and the amounts that it might pay for the service of the bonds, and it shall advance the bonds and amortized coupons and the sums that it might receive from the States on account of its agrarian debt.

Article 8. Based on the provisions contained in this law, the Executive of the nation is hereby authorized to proceed with the printing of the agrarian bonds and to regulate their issue; but with the understanding that those bonds will not be used as payment on account of expropriations until after each of the Federative Entities that might have to effect expropriations, has enacted the laws relative to the endowment of commons and partition of properties according to the bases contained in Article 27 of the Constitution of the Republic.



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Ixtaccihuatl, "The White Virgin." Altitude 17,000 feet. On the Left, the Head; Center, the Breast; Right, the Knees. Also Known as "The Sleeping Woman"

LAND DISTRIBUTION IN ZACATECAS STATE

The following proposed law has been presented to Congress by the members of that body representing the State of Zacatecas and will be considered in due time:

"The States, Territories and the Federal Districts are hereby authorized to create an agrarian debt, in absolute conformity with the provisions of Article 27 of the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States, taking into consideration the following bases:

"First—For the purposes of Clause (e) of the Article referred to, the States, Territories and Federal District shall issue notes (or bills) that shall be called "agrarian bonds."

"Second—The debt to be incurred under this law shall be direct between the States and the farmers, and its redemption will begin after the third year of the appropriation.

"Third—The new owners of lands shall make their corresponding payments for the redemption of their parcels or lots directly at the offices of the local governments that may be designated for the purpose. These will not divert the funds that may be collected in this manner for any other use than when in payment of duties they may take a certain percentage of it in "Agrarian bonds," enough to completely cover the annual amount that they should pay their creditors for lands that have been divided with relation to the amount of the capital and term of amortization.

"Fourth—The payments referred to in the first paragraph of the foregoing article will be made in annuities that become due after the second year of possession.

"Fifth—In conformity with the second paragraph, Clause VII, of Article 27, of the Constitution, the price of the lands will be precisely the same as that which figured as its taxable price upon the enforcement of the Constitution of 1916-17, plus 10 per cent. The excess on this valuation, which really represents the property concerned, on account of the material improvements of actual benefit that may have been done to it after the date of the designation of its fiscal value, would be the only value that would be subjected to expert judgment and to a judicial solution. This should be done with due intelligence.

"Sixth—When undertaking the partition of the lands, the local agrarian commissions will exercise special care in the valuation of the various parcels in regard to quality, extent, facilities for irrigation and communication, and in such way that the total value of the lands would be equal to the value of other lands in the farming area where they may belong."

COMPARATIVE PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM

The Petroleum Bureau of the Department of Industry and Commerce has issued a report showing the comparative production of petroleum for the first six months of 1917 and 1916 respectively.

For 1917 the production was:

In the Tampico zone—11,086,980 barrels, or 1,683,474 metric tons.

In Tuxpam zone—13,772,173 barrels, or 2,037,011 metric tons.

In the Minatitlan zone—23,394 barrels, or 3337 metric tons.

Total—24,882,547 barrels, or 3,723,825 metric tons.

For 1916 the production was:

In the Tampico zone—9,911,625 barrels, or 1,511,450 metric tons.

In the Tuxpam zone—9,275,261 barrels, or 1,338,635 metric tons.

In the Minatitlan zone—99,633 barrels, or 13,893 metric tons.

Total—19,286,520 barrels, or 2,883,979 metric tons.

The production for the first six months of 1917 was therefore 5,596,027 barrels, or 839,844 metric tons, greater than the production for the first six months of 1916.

(Note—The public has been asked by inimical writers to believe that the production of petroleum has been hampered by adverse influences. These figures are sufficient reply.—Ed.)

· The ·
Mexican Review

A · JOURNAL · DEVOTED · TO THE · ENLIGHTENMENT · OF · THE AMERICAN · PEOPLE · IN · RESPECT TO · THE · HOPES · AMBITIONS BENEFICENT · INTENTIONS · AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS · OF · THE CONSTITUTIONALIST · GOVERNMENT · OF · THE · REPUBLIC · OF · MEXICO

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CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION THAT IS MISUNDERSTOOD

Official explanation has been published of the circular issued about a year ago explaining the operation of Article 27 of the new Constitution, regarding the acquisition of lands in the Republic, and which is misunderstood, especially abroad.

The first section of Article 27 says: "Only Mexicans by birth or by naturalization, and Mexican associations, companies or incorporations, have the right to acquire ownership of the lands, waters and their accessories, or to obtain concessions for the exploitation of mines, waters or mineral combustibles in the Mexican Republic. The State can grant the same rights to foreigners under the condition that they must pledge themselves to the Ministry of Foreign Relations to the effect that they will consent to be considered as natives *in respect to said properties,* and that they will not ask by reason of being foreigners the protection of their governments *with respect to* the same properties; in case of their failure to comply with their agreement to forfeit the properties that they may have acquired by virtue of said pledge, the said properties will then revert to the benefit of the nation. For no reason whatever will foreigners be allowed to acquire direct control over lands and waters located in a belt one hundred kilometers wide along the frontiers, or in a belt of fifty kilometers wide along the shore lines."

The wrong interpretation of the circular referred to consists that in some cases concessions have been granted to *foreign companies* their only act being renunciation on their part of their foreign rights, while this is not what the Constitutional article requires. The requirement is that concessions are to be granted only to *private individual foreigners* who renounce said rights, but *never to foreign companies* who might do the same.

The Ministry of State has directed that under no consideration whatever shall such renunciations be accepted from foreign companies who desire to exercise powers of ownership or control over real properties in the Republic of their rights as foreigners. Instructions have been issued that the provision forbidding the granting of concessions to foreigners within fifty kilometers (30 miles) of the shore line and 100 kilometers (60 miles) of the frontier, will be strictly enforced.

In plain language, the foreigner seeking to secure business privileges or lands in Mexico must agree to abide by the laws of that country and not demand the right to appeal to his own government when those laws do not suit his ideas or interests. The foreigner who engages in business or buys land in the United States has no right of appeal from the laws of this country to his own government, and that is exactly what is demanded in Mexico, merely because some foreigners have seemed to fancy they had that "right."

CONTRADICTION OF FALSE REPORTS

Lic. Alberto Terrones Benietz, of Durango, writes as follows under recent date regarding conditions in that portion of Mexico:

"Although alarming reports from the enemies of the present Mexican Government depict the situation as getting bad, I am in a position to inform you that all of the reports published by most of the United States papers to that effect are untrue. Naturally the Mexican Government is facing a very difficult situation by reason of the complicated financial situation all over the world, and the fact is that the European war is affecting Mexico deeply. But neither politically nor economically speaking, a new revolution in this country could ever be justified; some outbursts of the old Cientifico party in the South, and the activities of the bandits headed by Villa in the North is all that happens right now; neither the first nor the latter can be taken seriously.

"The Government of the State of Durango is doing its utmost to encourage all kinds of enterprises. Some mines are already being operated in the leading Mining Districts, and also the railroad from this city to Canitas, in Zacatecas State, will be finished sometime this month, which shall certainly mean much more commercial and industrial activity for this State."

STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Reports of the Treasury Department show that the total receipts for the three months of July, August and September, 1917, were $84,936,126.83 Mexican gold, or the equivalent of $42,468,063.41 American gold, while the total disbursements were $87,756,590.34 Mexican gold, or $43,878,296.15 in American gold. The deficit was therefore only $2,820,463.51 Mexican gold, equal to $1,410,231.75 American money, or an average of but $470,077.08 per month. Less than a year ago the deficit was four to six times as much, and it has been steadily decreasing ever since. It is believed that it will be entirely wiped out early in the present year. The taxes on liquor of all kinds have been increased very materially, which will add largely to the national revenue, while other taxes will also contribute to the elimination of the deficit and a considerable surplus is not at all impossible within the next few months.

IMPROVEMENT IN RAILWAY CONDITIONS

The latest reports regarding railway conditions show a rapid degree of improvement in all directions. The receipts per month for freights only during the present year have been as follows:

January	$1,060,000
February	981,000
March	1,700,000
April	1,603,000
May	2,034,000
June	2,059,000
July	2,072,000
August	2,194,000
September	2,143,000
October	2,396,000

In the month of January the combined freight and passenger receipts were $2,673,819, while in the month of October the receipts from both sources were $[illegible]767,000, showing an increase of $2,093,181, or nearly one hundred per cent. The figures of passenger receipts are not given, but will show a proportionate increase with freight receipts.

During the month of September the receipts from passenger traffic were $1,434,000, while the receipts of the lines from the same source in September, 1910 (the month of the Centennial celebration of the nation's independence), were $1,435,631. This demonstrates in the most indisputable manner the establishment of nearly normal conditions of traffic at present, as September, 1910, was a period of unusual traffic.

During the period from January to October of the present year, a thousand cars have been added to the rolling stock of the railways by repair. Private concerns have in operation 108 locomotives and 2388 cars on the lines of the National railways, thus bringing the total amount of rolling stock well up to what it was before the revolution.

THE FOOD SITUATION

A number of extensive land owners in the State of Tabasco have offered to the Secretary of Fomento to deliver an initial shipment of two and one-half million pounds of corn in Mexico City at a price equivalent to $1.28 American gold per bushel, free of freight charges or other costs. This is about one-half the prevalent price. Corn from other portions of the Republic where the harvest has been abundant is also being shipped to points where it is needed as rapidly as transportation facilities will permit.

Additional stations are daily being opened in the City of Mexico for the sale at low prices of the corn imported from the United States and from other portions of the Republic. The Government has the food situation entirely in hand.

A refrigerator car service between Mexico City and Vera Cruz has been established for the purpose of supplying the people of the capital city with fresh fish at moderate prices. There is no limit to the amount that can be obtained in the gulf with small effort and expense.

MARVELOUS CHILD VIOLINIST

(*Continued from page* 3)

cult instrument, but such was the nature of her initial performance that she obtained a complete success and was at once heralded by the newspapers as a musical genius.

She has an ultra-sensitive temperament, and even though her character is imperious, she shows tenderness at the least manifestation of beauty. She finds it in flowers, in music and elsewhere. She loves her violin affectionately and kisses it whenever she practices with it. She interprets the Gavotte de Gossec with the style and skill of Mischa Elman, whom she once heard play and whose fond admirer she became. All music interests her to such a degree that whenever passing along the street she chances to hear it she stops to listen. All her interest is for music and nothing else attracts her. After playing compositions of Mendelssohn, Beethoven, Sarazate, Kreisler and others several times from notes, she is able thereafter to reproduce them from memory at will.

She has done all this while at the same time pursuing the usual elementary studies of a school child. If her parents should decide to give her a wider field, she is certain to receive a cordial and enthusiastic welcome among lovers of music in any portion of the world which may be favored with a visit from her.

A CLEAR-SIGHTED AMERICAN

Mr. Thomas H. Watkins, of Louisville, Ky., who has traveled in Mexico extensively, shows that his observations and conclusions vary widely from those of the usual visitor to foreign lands. In a very interesting letter he says:

"In January and February, 1908, I traveled over a large portion of Old Mexico, and was charmed with much of its scenery; but was especially delighted with the polite and hospitable demeanor of the natives. Our average Yankee, if not hopelessly arrogant and egotistic, could give himself a revelation by coming in contact with the poise, urbanity and generosity of the very-day Mexican, even down to the humblest peon.

"What a sensible idea it would be if all our high schools would offer as a premium to honor students a three months' tour of Mexico? And oh, that lovely language! Why should our lads and lassies waste so much time in Latin, Greek or French, when the same investment would not only make them at home with the loveliest tongue on the face of the earth, but would put them upon speaking terms with their nearest neighbor, and enable our commerce to spread from Rio Grande to Del Fuego, raking in the golden millions that in *ante bellum* days gorged the coffers of Britain, Germany and France?

"Sad to say, the 'usual' Yankee thinks he is the only 'American'. He can't understand that the Canadian is an American and the Mexican is equally an American.

"When a 'hobo' says he speaks 'American' does he realize that the American language is sixty per cent English and forty per cent Spanish? The educated in Mexico are learning English. When will the Yankee get it through his skull that no American can claim to be educated if he be 'rank' ignorant of the tongue of his nearest neighbor?"

PROPOSED INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS

It has been announced by the officials of the University of California, that a fund of one hundred thousand dollars has been created for the purpose of instituting a careful investigation of actual conditions in Mexico under the auspices of the institution named, in conjunction with the Universities of Harvard, Princeton, Wisconsin, Minnesota and others. The investigation is to be conducted by experts in collaboration with a delegation of Mexican educators. The object is to present to the world a truthful statement of the economic and social conditions of the Republic.

What Mexico desires above all else is to have the *truth* told regarding it, and this investigation will be welcomed on these grounds. It is of course believed that the investigators will be persons without preconceived prejudices and with minds open to the reception of the facts as viewed with their own eyes.

CONTROL OF THE NATIONAL RAILWAYS NOT TO BE GIVEN UP

It is announced upon high governmental authority that the National Government has no intention of giving up the control of the National (or Constitutionalist, as they are now called) Railway lines, but will continue to hold such control as before the Revolution. This control is held by virtue of the governmental ownership of 51 per cent of the stock of the roads, and was secured upward of ten years since, at the time the main lines then under private ownership were merged into the National Railways organization, the Government as stated taking over 51 per cent of the stock in order to control the management. It is also announced that while the stockholders and bankers interested may decide to incur additional bonded indebtedness in order to rehabilitate the system, this will in no way interfere with the maintenance of governmental control. During the Revolution it was found necessary by the Constitutionalist authorities to assume the actual operation of the roads, owing to the situation of public affairs and to the active antagonism of certain officials who had been placed in authority under the now displaced régime and thereby hampered the necessary movements of the party which was seeking to restore constitutional government. While the Government itself may in due time retire from the active management of the lines, it will, as stated, at all times retain the control given by its ownership of more than half of the stock. No intention exists in any direction to abandon that control.

STAMP TAXES ON OIL FOR EXPORT

Under date of December 6th, Sub-Secretary of the Treasury Nieto issued the following circular regarding the valuation of oil for export and upon which stamp taxes are required, for the months of November and December, based upon the values of oil and its derivates in the market—the rate of taxation being ten per cent of the assessed value:

Combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, $10.50 per ton.

Crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, $13.50 per ton.

Petroleum of a density greater than 0.91, $5.50 per ton.

Gas oil, $10.50 per ton.

Refined gasoline, in bulk or packages, 0.12 per liter.

Crude gasoline, in bulk or packages, 0.11¼ per liter.

Crude or refined kerosene, in bulk or packages, 0.03 per liter.

The values of crude or combustible petroleum are increased or diminished in proportion with the density, as stated in the decree regarding the oil tax of April 13, 1917.

In terms of American gold the foregoing taxes would vary from about four to nine and one-half cents per barrel on the various grades of petroleum.

FIFTEEN MILLIONS EXTRA FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

The Chamber of Deputies has authorized the President of the Republic to incur an extraordinary expenditure of fifteen millions of pesos for the construction of fifty schoolhouses in the capital city of a capacity of one thousand pupils each, and also for the erection of similar edifices in each of the States at an expense of one hundred thousand pesos in each State. This expenditure is to be met by the issue of stamps for both postal and internal revenue dues, to be known as "Public Instruction Stamps," to be affixed to letters, telegrams and all documents requiring revenue payment.

Immigration Commissions have been appointed at all ports of entry into the Republic for the purpose of considering the cases of all foreigners desiring admission, as well as of Mexican citizens who may wish to repatriate themselves.

A plan for insuring the lives of soldiers has been adopted in one of the army corps and may be extended to the entire national force. The basic idea is to retain one day's pay each month from every member of the army, thereby creating a fund for payment of death or disability claims.

Under date of December 6th, President Carranza, by virtue of the authority given him to make differential tariff rates at his discretion, has modified the export duty on cotton, whether with or without the seeds, to two centavos per kilo, or the equivalent of forty-six hundredths of a cent American gold per pound.

A project is under discussion for the construction of a railway in the Territory of Lower California, from Puerto Isabel, near the mouth of the Gulf of California, to Mexicali, on the California boundary line, where it will connect with the Southern Pacific, and from that point to Ensenada, on the Pacific coast, the capital of the Territory. Other lines are also projected in the same section.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

VII

A Late Afternoon Panic in the Plaza

IT is late in the afternoon.

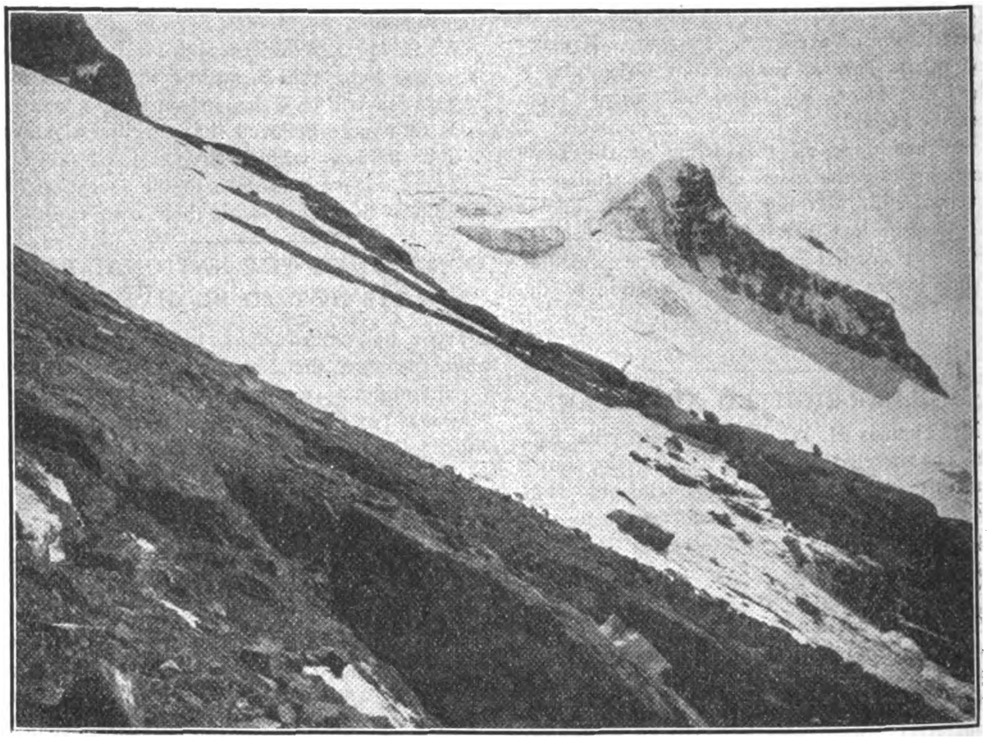
The sun is nearing the serrated ridge that cuts off the Cuatro Cienegas valley from the vast desert stretches to the west. The air is becoming cooler every moment, as the evening shadows commence to fall. These shadows come early too—long before the hour appointed by the calendar for this latitude has been reached for the disappearance below the horizon of the great orb of day. The mountains that guard the town on the west are so lofty that the sun is hidden from sight a couple of hours before the usual time in less well protected localities. The shadows are creeping slowly down the foothills, bringing out the light and shade of canyon and ridge, of shrub and grass, of the vari-colored rocks, in a manner that one never tires of watching and studying.

The siesta hour has long since joined the majority. "El Gringo" is in his favorite loafing spot on the settee in the shade of the china-berry tree, watching and studying the constantly shifting scenes about him. The streets are alive with the populace. All the seats in the plaza are occupied and the hum of life is heard in every direction. Children throng the little park, play about the benches, listen to the blind violin player, buy sweetmeats from the peddlers—bits of candied cactus and squash and such like national delicacies—and enjoy themselves in the same manner as do their kin all over the world. Everything is peaceful, quiet and calm. An air of inexpressible security and enjoyment is over all.

Away up the street down which the guayule teams are wont to come as they near the end of their long and weary journey from the heart of the desert, a hundred miles and more to the northwest, appears a cloud of dust. It rolls skyward as only dust can roll which has been pulverized to an almost impalpable powder by continued drought and thrown to the winds by the slightest disturbance of wheel, hoof or human foot. The cloud is so dense and hangs so closely to the ground, as well as towering aloft into the air, that for an hour or so, and until it is well within the town limits, there is nothing to indicate with certainty the cause thereof.

Finally the lowing and bellowing of cattle disclose the fact that a band of horned stock is making its way slowly along the highway, coming, as was subsequently developed, from the remote fastnesses of the desert mountains, where they had been reared among the wildest surroundings, their only knowledge of civilization being the infrequent sight of a vaquero from whom they had fled in terror. Such a thing as a town, with its aggregation of houses and humans, its terrifying sights and maddening odors, was as foreign to them as the life that possibly exists upon the moon is to the earth dweller.

They are leg weary and thirsty from their long journey. So too are the vaqueros and their horses. They have pushed the animals in order to reach the cattle corrals at the railroad station before dark, until, frightened by the unusual sights and sounds and odors of the town, the beasts are on the verge of a stampede. The horsemen urge the unwilling animals down the street, nursing them carefully at each crossing in order to hold them together and prevent disaster. Thus they come along the thoroughfare until the corner of the plaza is reached. The desert-bred animals sniff the air and the dust. The odor is not to their liking, it is so different from the pure, resinous air of the desert. They bawl and bellow, they toss their heads and roll their bloodshot eyes from side to side, lashing their bodies with their tails, prodding each other with their horns, starting impromptu duels, and evincing every indication of readiness to break into a panic at the slightest provocation. The situation is tense and fraught with danger, needing only some untoward incident to "start things." As might have been expected, this incident was not lacking at the exact psychological moment.



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Ascent to the Crest of Ixtaccihuatl

There is a musically inclined individual living in a house that fronts on the plaza, who is wont to while away the evening hours and wear away his neighbors' nerves at the same time by eliciting strange noises from the depths of a brass instrument of some sort, the like of which were never heard on land or sea, and which were well calculated to bring panic and fear to animals far more accustomed to the unusual than a band of desert-raised bovines.

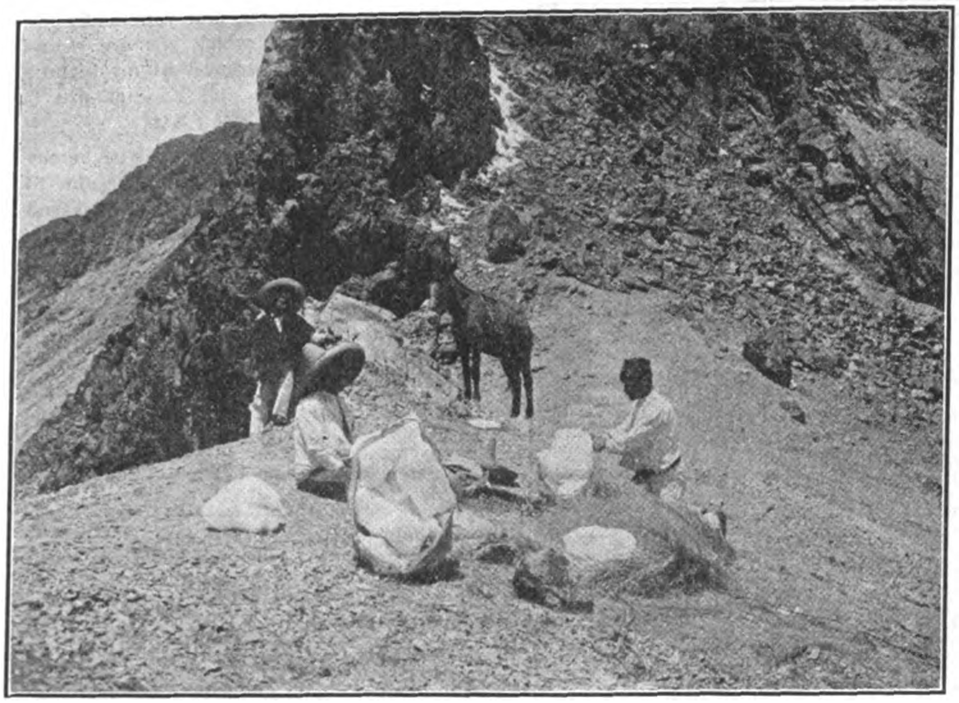
Ignorant of the impending advent of the weary, nervous, half-crazed cattle, this individual establishes himself on the sidewalk in front of his doorway, puts the mouthpiece of the instrument of torture to his face, draws a deep breath, and then— With a long-drawn shriek and moan which would have put the most powerful foghorn to blush, if foghorns can blush, he rent the evening air, tore it to tatters—to fragments. The cattle halted suddenly and simultaneously. What hellish trap was this into which they were being led? They had seen and heard strange and weird things since striking the outposts of civilization, but nothing like this. They stood breathless and motionless for a second or two, then with a chorus of wildest bellowings of fright they stampeded. Down the street they came, hell-bent for the plaza. The vaqueros rode up on the sidewalks and among them, seeking in vain to hold the crazed animals together. At each corner some broke away and dashed down the side streets, but the main body rushed plaza-ward.

Shouts of warning were uttered, yells and curses were hurled at the unconscious cause, who did not realize what he had done until the leaders, with lowered heads and elevated tails, were close upon him. Then into the house he went at one jump, slamming the door just in time to escape serious and more or less deserved damage.

Through the plaza the animals tore, the people fleeing in panic, climbing the trees, hiding in ditches, running to shelter in every direction. Dignity was scattered to the winds. Safety first was the predominant idea with all. "El Gringo" saw and heard them coming. He had seen and heard such things before on a

California cattle ranch and knew something about the danger therefrom. Diagonally across the street from his seat, in an opposite direction from the church, was the "hoozegow," or jail, with doors and windows of iron bars—no more. He had never had any very friendly feeling for such institutions, except when confining law breakers of unusual hideousness of conduct, but in the emergency—the condition and not the theory—that now confronted him and his companions, the wide open door took on a most inviting aspect. The heavy iron bars looked good enough to him—real good in fact—just as they apparently did to half a dozen others. There was a simultaneous thought in the mind of each, there was a simultaneous dash for the open doorway, and there was a simultaneous arrival at the desired point. All reached it at the same instant and all sought to pass through it with as little unnecessary delay as possible. Forgotten were the niceties and politeness of ordinary every-day intercourse. Forgotten was the delightful habit of stepping to one side on the narrow walk or in the doorway, saluting another and bidding him to pass first. Quite excusable was this forgetfulness. With a bunch of mad cattle close at one's heels, bawling and bellowing, just one instinct remained—that of self-preservation. So we all tried to get through the door together, became wedged therein, struggled frantically, but finally managed to squeeze through, then slammed the grating shut and from this secure point of vantage watched the proceedings in the street.

Through the plaza the animals tore, the people fleeding in panic, climbing trees, hiding in ditches, running to shelter in every direction. Aided by some mounted men, the vaqueros finally managed to round up most of the animals, and it was decided to herd them into a corral in the middle of town and not to attempt to drive them to the railroad station until morning, when they would have become quiet and more manageable. After a long time spent in coaxing, persuading and gently urging the cattle, they were at length all driven through the gateway to the corral, with a single exception. This was a big black bull of fearsome aspect, who sullenly maintained his stand in the center of the street and contrary to general cattle usage refused to follow his companions. The vaqueros surrounded him, hit him with their reatas and quirts, swore at him and sought in vain in some manner to persuade him to move.



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Indians Carrying Ice From the Volcano as in the Days of Montezuma

Finally one rash individual inflicted the crowning indignity upon his bullship. He seized the animal's tail near the root, and gave it an energetic and spiteful twist. That was all he did, but it was amply sufficient. He took no part in the subsequent performances. It was quite late in the evening before he was able to sit up and ask how the town had fared during the earthquake, and what a pity it was that the church had been destroyed and that he had been prostrated by the debris—such incidents being almost unknown here!

With a roar and a bellow, the bull, having first kicked his tormentor into unconsciousness, went tearing down the street. Every living object that met his view was a target for prompt attack. An inoffensive burro standing meekly by the roadside was struck squarely amidship and sent rolling into the opposite gutter. A horse or two met a like fate. Two or three men were bowled over, but fortunately the maddened animal was too bewildered, too anxious to get away from the town and into the familiar wilderness to permit of a moment's unnecessary stay. So they escaped uninjured except for painful bruises. Fortunately for all, the angry bull did not halt to gore any of the objects of his wrath. He had no spite against them that would lead him to desire their lives. He was in a desperate hurry, they were merely in his way, and they must get out of his path—that was all.

Never was such a sight seen outside of the bullring. Women ran screaming to snatch their panic stricken children out of harm's way. Men sought places of safety no matter where or how. Half of the double door of a tailor shop stood open, too narrow to admit of the animal's entrance, but he charged at it, was caught for a minute by one of his horns becoming entangled, stayed long enough to receive full in the face a brasero full of burning charcoal used for heating the tailor's "goose," withdrew with a bellow of added pain and rage, and then dashed on. By this time some of the vaqueros had recovered from their momentary panic and with reatas widely swinging came galloping down the street. Two were in the lead, and with a quick gesture from one to the other they ranged up, one on each side, cast their reatas with unerring accuracy, then reined their horses back on their haunches, and braced themselves for the shock. It came. The bull was halted so suddenly that he turned a complete somersault, landing squarely on his head and then falling heavily on his back. While the vaqueros tautened their ropes and held him harmless on the ground, another jumped quickly from his horse, drew a keen edged knife, and at one slash almost severed the animal's head from his body, the while one last resounding bellow of anger and pain went hurtling down the street.

Oh it was *some* idyll—this stampede of the desert cattle, and for a long time it was used to date other events of less importance, or at all events with less thrill.

SETTLEMENT OF DAMAGE CLAIMS

(Concluded from page 5)

Article 16. The decisions dictated by the arbitral commissions referred to in the foregoing article, will have a final character.

Article 17. A special law will determine, in its opportunity, the manner to obtain the funds for the payment of claims that have been definitely approved, and the manner in which the funds are to be covered.

Transitory

1st. The present law does not affect in any way whatsoever the arrangements that may have been made with the Ministry of Finance in behalf of properties that have been appropriated or confiscated; likewise it does not affect the properties that are still appropriated by the Government, while there is pending the enactment of the law referred to in the transitory Article 15 of the Constitution.

2d. This law will begin to take effect on the date of its promulgation.

3d. For the effects of this law all previous dispositions in opposition thereto are hereby abolished.

(The transitory article of the Constitution referred to in the foregoing is as follows:

"Article 15. The citizen at present charged with the executive power is hereby authorized to issue the law of civil responsibility applicable to all promoters, accomplices and abettors of the offenses committed against the constitutional order in the month of February, 1913, and against the Constitutionalist Government.")

Differential Tariff Law

The President Given Authority to Change Import and Export Duties as May Seem Fit

AMBASSADOR BONILLAS is in receipt of the following cablegram from Mexico City, via Galveston:

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Ygnacio Bonillas, Mexican Ambassador,
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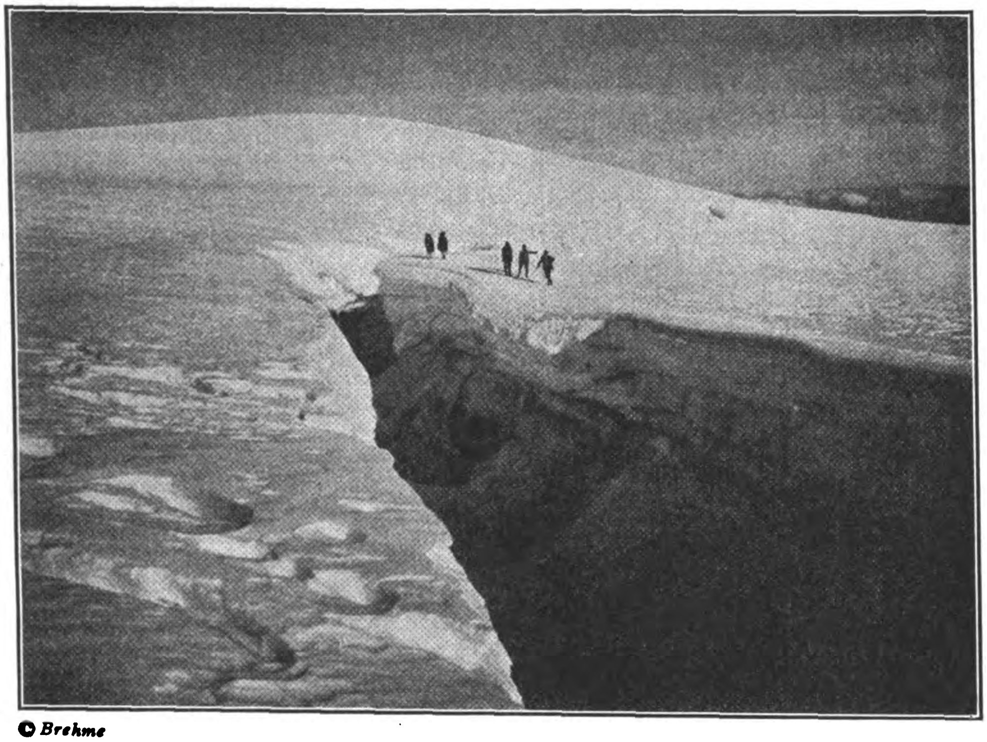

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On the Breast of Ixtaccihuatl

"Representatives: The special circumstances through which our country is passing, due to the protracted struggles against the usurpant governments within the present world conflagration which has involved some countries of the American continent, compelled the Treasury Department to submit a project of law to the Congress of the Union with the object of empowering the Executive of the Nation to make such modifications to the Customs Tariff with Foreign Countries as may be expedient, to be effective until August 31, 1918. The said bill was taken into consideration, and after discussion and approval in both Houses, it became a law through the proper sanction, promulgation and publication. Subsequent events have brought out the need that such authorization granted to the Executive to modify the tariff generally be complemented with the faculty to fix or establish differential customs tariffs in view of the country of origin or of destination of the merchandise imported or exported. Aside from existing reasons justifying the authorization granted by Decree of October 31st, last, and which are specified in the body of the bill aforesaid as well as in the body of the daily record of debates, the special attitude of each one of the belligerent countries regarding neutrals as to international commerce, must be taken into account. The immediate object of the nations at war consisting in depriving their enemies from all supplies, as well as the conservation of all economical resources within each country, have compelled the nations at war to enact special provisions to such ends, while establishing discriminations according to the place or nation in question, and though such policies are specially directed against the enemy countries, they yet prejudice in the same manner neutral countries without adequate cause. Neutrals are therefore compelled in the defense of their own right to live, to take such measures of preservation within their sphere of action to avoid succumbing sooner or later, although it is a principle of international law in time of peace that all nations with which any one country trades should be entitled to the same treatment, and although in nearly all existing treaties into which the Mexican Republic has entered, there has been inserted the clause of the most favored nation, such conditions can only be applied in normal times. At present the greater part of the nations engaged in war have been obliged to establish important differentials in favor of their allies as regards neutrals. Commercial treaties entered into by Mexico with the nations engaged in war, although they have not been abrogated nor denounced, in view of the great number of nations involved in the European conflict, they are nevertheless in suspense as regards their application of the most favored nation clause which the Mexican Republic should enjoy regarding each one of the belligerent nations. In such conditions it would not be equitable that Mexico should have the obligation to maintain its commerce absolutely in the very same conditions that obtained in times of peace, while the belligerents, for reasons which may be highly justifiable as regards their enemies, should place in practice restrictions detrimental to the commerce of the Republic, which in view of such conditions ruling, must not continue without modifications the application of its commercial treaties. The Executive under my charge, convinced of the undeniable truth of the considerations expressed, has not hesitated to appeal to the National Congress, as it does hereby, that it may decide in the sense of the preceding ideas embodied in the enclosed project of law which the Executive submits to the Judgment of Congress. Requesting that you kindly inform the Chamber of which you are secretaries, I renew the assurances of my highest consideration. V. CARRANZA.

PROJECT OF LAW

(Sole Article) The Executive is hereby empowered, while abnormal conditions due to the world war subsist, to establish rules and tariff rates of a differential nature for the different nations with which Mexico has international commerce, with the purpose of favoring commerce with such nations as may not place restrictions of any kind to their commerce with the Mexican Republic.

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A delegation of commercial men from St. Louis, Chicago, Baltimore and other points is expected to arrive soon in Mexico, for the purpose of examining into the many commercial opportunities that are offered for foreign enterprise in that country. This is the first movement of the kind since the restoration of peace and stable government.

An inventory made by the Treasury Department shows that there are in the Republic a total of 6854 Catholic Churches, of which twenty-four alone have been taken over for public use, as schools, offices, etc., where they are not needed for religious purposes. Since 1857 these have all belonged to the Government, under the constitution adopted in that year.

General Francisco Murguia, military commandant in the State of Chihuahua, has notified the leading mine owners who may not have resumed operations, that he will give them all guarantees and ample protection in their enterprise, but that if they do not begin work within a reasonable period the Government will operate them for the benefit of the working people who are dependent thereon.

Trade and Other Statistics

Export and Import Business Between Mexico and Other Countries—Banking and Debt Reports

THERE being no data for the four last years, we give below those of the five-year term between 1905 and 1910, taken from the annual reports published by the Ministry of Fomento (Public Improvements):

Value of the merchandise imported during those five years	$1,025,390,606.23
Value of the merchandise exported	1,253,043,908.69
Amount collected as import duties	238,430,483.14
Amount collected as export duties	3,874,192.51

And in order that there may be had a knowledge of the foreign commerce of Mexico with Europe and the United States, we continue to copy and insert herein the figures that show in detail the natural and indusrial products that were exported during the fiscal year of 1912-13, giving the amounts and values stated in the bills of lading:

Natural Products Exported During the Fiscal Year of 1912-13, With Their Quantities and Values:

PRECIOUS METALS AND MINERALS THAT CONTAIN THEM	QUANTITIES	VALUE AS PER BILLS OF LADING IN MEXICAN PESOS
GOLD	Kgs	
Gild mineral in rock, powder or ground	804,983	$1,073,307.99
Coined Mexican gold	350,515	467,352.16
Gold in paste (or bullion)	28,135,688	37,514,156.93
Gold in syanurets	32,261	43,014.56
Gold in sulphates	69,294	92,391.77
SILVER	Kgs	
Silver mineral in rock, powder or ground	108,346,975	$4,359,227.74
Coined Mexican Silver	239,656,697	9,806,402.00
Silver in bars	297,508,617	39,738,033.77
Silver in lead cakes	565,989,620	23,029,719.14
Silver alloyed with copper	338,503,590	13,505,861.50
Silver in cyanurets	11,093,546	451,036.32

INDUSTRIAL METALS AND MINERALS THAT CONTAIN THEM

	Kgs	
Antimony	165,199,000	$ 1,575,499.00
Mercury	165,456,000	141,999.00
Copper	55,067,897,000	31,156,672.00
Copper mineral (or ore)	66,334,049,000	5,367,379.00
Tin ore	467,780,000	14,420.00
Lead	93,561,143,000	4,906,571.00
Lead ore	38,112,000	764.00
Zinc	7,622,000	1,210.00
Zinc ore	27,239,020,000	533,618.00

MINERAL COMBUSTIBLES (or mineral fuels)

	Kgs	
Asphalt (chapopote)	31,637,689,000	$ 941,064.00
Rock coal	3,021,000	61.00
OTHERS		
Sulphur	800,707,000	83,100.00
Precious stones	2,400	150.00
Plumbago	269,528,000	16,602.00
Salt	2,302,002,000	222,346.00
Other mineral products not specified, among them, mica and asbestos	1,869,673,467,000	13,801,496.00
Total value of mineral products		$112,396,679.86

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

	Kgs	
Beneseed and beneseed in paste	2,503,685,000	$ 345,601.00
Garlic	295,686,000	44,610.00
Alfalfa	450,000	30.00
Cotton in bolls	373,093,000	4,612.00
Cotton, raw	35,202,000	68,350.00
Uncleaned cotton	28,007,000	3,579.00
Anise	85,000	30.00
Rice	47,512,000	89,405.00
Saffron	5,238,000	6,871.00
Cocoanut husk	34,239,000	1,105.00
Cacao	4,191,000	2,173.00
Coffee	21,078,333,000	11,263,701.00
Cane sugar	111,490,000	1,621.00
Crude rubber	3,877,963,000	8,376,351.00
Vegetable carbon (or coal)	420,000	16.00
Cascalote (plant) and cuttings and branches for tanning	206,674,000	8,425.00
	Kgs	
Barley	1,406,088,000	121,290.00
Dried Cocoanut	249,878,000	16,457.00
Small oil cocoanuts	449,000	191.00
Figs	83,000	32.00
Chicle	3,605,968,000	44,341,873.00
Chile (small red peppers)	352,763,000	230,476.00
Damiana	16,928,000	3,562.00
Spices (cloves, cuminx, pepper)	20,728,000	1,362.00
Essence of aloes	41,977,000	227,627.00
Natural flowers	1,491,000	197.00
Beans (black)	7,377,760,000	1,160,364.00
Fresh fruits (strawberries, alligator pears, bananas, limes, lemons, oranges, etc.)	28,758,451,000	1,018,698.00
Dried fruits (nuts, pine-nuts, tamarind fruit, and other preserved fruits)	1,563,591,000	593,170.00
Chick-peas	34,137,490,000	4,930,362.00
Gums and rosins	466,775,000	118,850.00
Rubber	3,056,932,000	7,234,576.00
Beans (common)	107,552,000	8,417.00
Henequen (sisal hemp) in raw state	149,020,193,000	30,133,755.00
Corn stalks (and leaves)	29,000	8.00
Agave fiber in raw state	18,149,629,000	3,646,441.00
Legumes	4,907,970,000	504,997.00
Lentils	1,076,000	207.00
Fire wood	2,224,852,000	24,179.00
Linseed and linseed paste	191,581,000	18,214.00
Corn	3,606,834,000	302,621.00
Cane molasses	8,378,000	1,911.00
Marjoram	4,337,000	987.00
Palm leaves for hats	30,067,000	2,927.00
Mulberry-tree sticks	3,738,718,000	112,559.00
Dye sticks	13,921,541,000	382,699.00
Potatoes	79,953,000	4,545.00
Feeds (for cattle, etc.) not specified	837,689,000	50,603.00
Live plants	7,275,000	3,419.00
Jalapa roots	161,896,000	109,939.00
Wheat grass roots	3,982,513,000	1,960,333.00
Cotton seed	420,757,000	29,089.00
Plant seeds	113,622,000	6,845.00
Tobacco in leaves	808,644,000	1,002,611.00
Wheat	523,350,000	24,820.00
Vanilla	288,758,000	3,315,471.00
Medicinal herbs	58,046,000	19,442.00
Feed for horses	3,310,000	65.00
Sarsaparilla	298,536,000	106,387.00
Other vegetable products not specified	618,643,000	5,583,771.00
	Cu. M.	
Cedar wood and others	829,284,000	3,365,131.00
Total value of the vegetable products		$ 85,937,960.00

ANIMAL PRODUCTS

	Kgs	Value in Mex. Pesos
Animal manure	1,902,973	$ 87,771.00
Shark fins	13,018	13,771.00
Live animals not specified, such as domestic fowls and others; dogs, turtles, etc.	46,818	46,818.00
Fish roes	6,851	16,207.00
Shrimps	185,967	62,956.00
Fleshy parts of hides, shavings and pieces of leather	23,701	23,765.00
Tortoise-shell	279	860.00
Fresh meats	30,696	6,545.00
Salt meats	28,358	9,796.00
White wax	83,730	80,009.00
Yellow wax	3,902	3,448.00
Bristles	165,206	98,783.00
Mother of pearl shells	317,304	104,733.00
Shells of various kinds (abalone, oysters and cone shells of various kinds	25,125	1,417.00
Horns	422,523	81,709.00
Sponges	325	960.00
	Heads	
Donkeys	296	3,512.00
Horses	2,234	234,173.00
Goats and sheep	36,862	92,315.00
Pigs and hogs	5,756	63,549.00
Mules	3,398	183,971.00
Cattle (oxen)	272,381	6,918,516.00
	Kgs	
Guano	1,114,203	21,826.00
Bones	4,840,524	147,127.00
Wool	27,205	4,353.00
Hog lard	5,840	3,114.00
Honey	854,161	135,028.00
Dried flies (Spanish flies?)	4,526	1,582.00
Oysters	13,696	3,853.00
Goat's hair	2,775	2,075.00
Cow's hair	6,593	2,958.00
Fine pearls	620,620	70,000.00
Fresh fish	7,774	2,079.00

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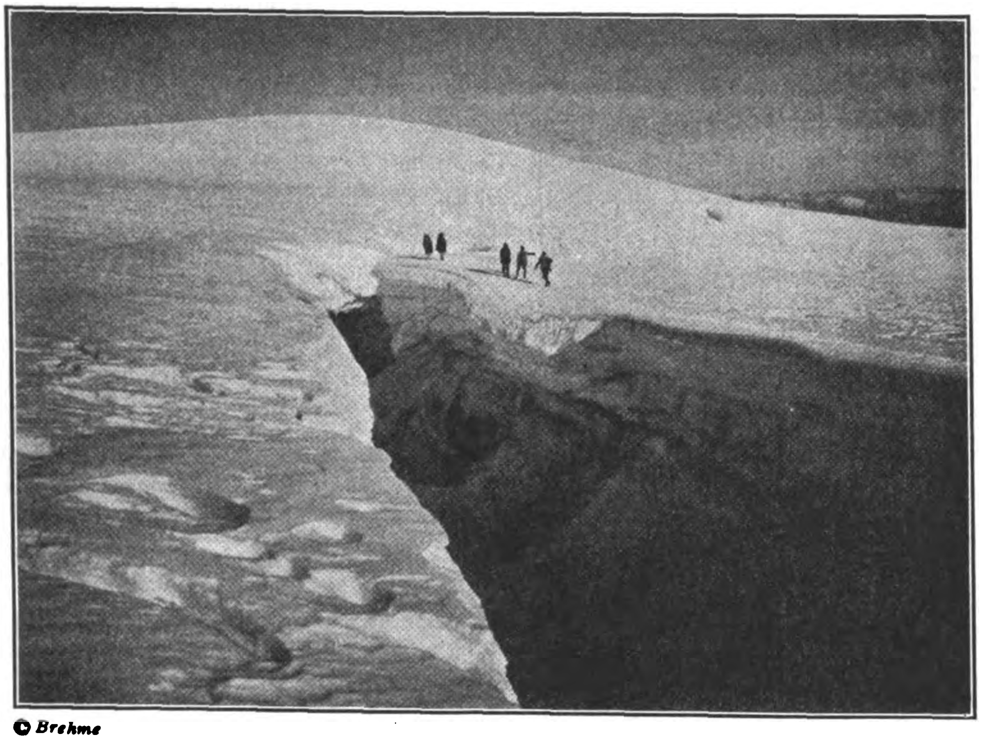

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Notice has been issued by the American authorities that all persons leaving Mexico for the United States must have passports issued by the American consul at the port of departure, whether by land or sea.

A delegation of commercial men from St. Louis, Chicago, Baltimore and other points is expected to arrive soon in Mexico, for the purpose of examining into the many commercial opportunities that are offered for foreign enterprise in that country. This is the first movement of the kind since the restoration of peace and stable government.

An inventory made by the Treasury Department shows that there are in the Republic a total of 6854 Catholic Churches, of which twenty-four alone have been taken over for public use, as schools, offices, etc., where they are not needed for religious purposes. Since 1857 these have all belonged to the Government, under the constitution adopted in that year.

General Francisco Murguia, military commandant in the State of Chihuahua, has notified the leading mine owners who may not have resumed operations, that he will give them all guarantees and ample protection in their enterprise, but that if they do not begin work within a reasonable period the Government will operate them for the benefit of the working people who are dependent thereon.

Trade and Other Statistics

Export and Import Business Between Mexico and Other Countries—Banking and Debt Reports

THERE being no data for the four last years, we give below those of the five-year term between 1905 and 1910, taken from the annual reports published by the Ministry of Fomento (Public Improvements):

Value of the merchandise imported during those five years	$1,025,390,606.23
Value of the merchandise exported	1,253,043,908.69
Amount collected as import duties	238,430,483.14
Amount collected as export duties	3,874,192.51

And in order that there may be had a knowledge of the foreign commerce of Mexico with Europe and the United States, we continue to copy and insert herein the figures that show in detail the natural and indusrial products that were exported during the fiscal year of 1912-13, giving the amounts and values stated in the bills of lading:

Natural Products Exported During the Fiscal Year of 1912-13, With Their Quantities and Values:

PRECIOUS METALS AND MINERALS THAT CONTAIN THEM	QUANTITIES	VALUE AS PER BILLS OF LADING IN MEXICAN PESOS
GOLD	Kgs	
Gild mineral in rock, powder or ground	804,983	$1,073,307.99
Coined Mexican gold	350,515	467,352.16
Gold in paste (or bullion)	28,135,688	37,514,156.93
Gold in syanurets	32,261	43,014.56
Gold in sulphates	69,294	92,391.77
SILVER	Kgs	
Silver mineral in rock, powder or ground	108,346,975	$4,359,227.74
Coined Mexican Silver	239,656,697	9,806,402.00
Silver in bars	297,508,617	39,738,033.77
Silver in lead cakes	565,989,620	23,029,719.14
Silver alloyed with copper	338,503,590	13,505,861.50
Silver in cyanurets	11,093,546	451,036.32

INDUSTRIAL METALS AND MINERALS THAT CONTAIN THEM

	Kgs	
Antimony	165,199,000	$ 1,575,499.00
Mercury	165,456,000	141,999.00
Copper	55,067,897,000	31,156,672.00
Copper mineral (or ore)	66,334,049,000	5,367,379.00
Tin ore	467,780,000	14,420.00
Lead	93,561,143,000	4,906,571.00
Lead ore	38,112,000	764.00
Zinc	7,622,000	1,210.00
Zinc ore	27,239,020,000	533,618.00

MINERAL COMBUSTIBLES
(or mineral fuels)

	Kgs	
Asphalt (chapopote)	31,637,689,000	$ 941,064.00
Rock coal	3,021,000	61.00
OTHERS		
Sulphur	800,707,000	83,100.00
Precious stones	2,400	150.00
Plumbago	269,528,000	16,602.00
Salt	2,302,002,000	222,346.00
Other mineral products not specified, among them, mica and asbestos	1,869,673,467,000	13,801,496.00
Total value of mineral products		$112,396,679.86

VEGETABLE PRODUCTS

	Kgs	
Beneseed and beneseed in paste	2,503,685,000	$ 345,601.00
Garlic	295,686,000	44,610.00
Alfalfa	450,000	30.00
Cotton in bolls	373,093,000	4,612.00
Cotton, raw	35,202,000	68,350.00
Uncleaned cotton	28,007,000	3,579.00
Anise	85,000	30.00
Rice	47,512,000	89,405.00
Saffron	5,238,000	6,871.00
Cocoanut husk	34,239,000	1,105.00
Cacao	4,191,000	2,173.00
Coffee	21,078,333,000	11,263,701.00
Cane sugar	111,490,000	1,621.00
Crude rubber	3,877,963,000	8,376,351.00
Vegetable carbon (or coal)	420,000	16.00
Cascalote (plant) and cuttings and branches for tanning	206,674,000	8,425.00
	Kgs	
Barley	1,406,088,000	121,290.00
Dried Cocoanut	249,878,000	16,457.00
Small oil cocoanuts	449,000	191.00
Figs	83,000	32.00
Chicle	3,605,968,000	44,341,873.00
Chile (small red peppers)	352,763,000	230,476.00
Damiana	16,928,000	3,562.00
Spices (cloves, cuminx, pepper)	20,728,000	1,362.00
Essence of aloes	41,977,000	227,627.00
Natural flowers	1,491,000	197.00
Beans (black)	7,377,760,000	1,160,364.00
Fresh fruits (strawberries, alligator pears, bananas, limes, lemons, oranges, etc.)	28,758,451,000	1,018,698.00
Dried fruits (nuts, pine-nuts, tamarind fruit, and other preserved fruits)	1,563,591,000	593,170.00
Chick-peas	34,137,490,000	4,930,362.00
Gums and rosins	466,775,000	118,850.00
Rubber	3,056,932,000	7,234,576.00
Beans (common)	107,552,000	8,417.00
Henequen (sisal hemp) in raw state	149,020,193,000	30,133,755.00
Corn stalks (and leaves)	29,000	8.00
Agave fiber in raw state	18,149,629,000	3,646,441.00
Legumes	4,907,970,000	504,997.00
Lentils	1,076,000	207.00
Fire wood	2,224,852,000	24,179.00
Linseed and linseed paste	191,581,000	18,214.00
Corn	3,606,834,000	302,621.00
Cane molasses	8,378,000	1,911.00
Marjoram	4,337,000	987.00
Palm leaves for hats	30,067,000	2,927.00
Mulberry-tree sticks	3,738,718,000	112,559.00
Dye sticks	13,921,541,000	382,699.00
Potatoes	79,953,000	4,545.00
Feeds (for cattle, etc.) not specified	837,689,000	50,603.00
Live plants	7,275,000	3,419.00
Jalapa roots	161,896,000	109,939.00
Wheat grass roots	3,982,513,000	1,960,333.00
Cotton seed	420,757,000	29,089.00
Plant seeds	113,622,000	6,845.00
Tobacco in leaves	808,644,000	1,002,611.00
Wheat	523,350,000	24,820.00
Vanilla	288,758,000	3,315,471.00
Medicinal herbs	58,046,000	19,442.00
Feed for horses	3,310,000	65.00
Sarsaparilla	298,536,000	106,387.00
Other vegetable products not specified	618,643,000	5,583,771.00
	Cu. M.	
Cedar wood and others	829,284,000	3,365,131.00
Total value of the vegetable products		$ 85,937,960.00

ANIMAL PRODUCTS

	Kgs	Value in Mex. Pesos
Animal manure	1,902,973	$ 87,771.00
Shark fins	13,018	13,771.00
Live animals not specified, such as domestic fowls and others; dogs, turtles, etc.	46,818	46,818.00
Fish roes	6,851	16,207.00
Shrimps	185,967	62,956.00
Fleshy parts of hides, shavings and pieces of leather	23,701	23,765.00
Tortoise-shell	279	860.00
Fresh meats	30,696	6,545.00
Salt meats	28,358	9,796.00
White wax	83,730	80,009.00
Yellow wax	3,902	3,448.00
Bristles	165,206	98,783.00
Mother of pearl shells	317,304	104,733.00
Shells of various kinds (abalone, oysters and cone shells of various kinds	25,125	1,417.00
Horns	422,523	81,709.00
Sponges	325	960.00
	Heads	
Donkeys	296	3,512.00
Horses	2,234	234,173.00
Goats and sheep	36,862	92,315.00
Pigs and hogs	5,756	63,549.00
Mules	3,398	183,971.00
Cattle (oxen)	272,381	6,918,516.00
	Kgs	
Guano	1,114,203	21,826.00
Bones	4,840,524	147,127.00
Wool	27,205	4,353.00
Hog lard	5,840	3,114.00
Honey	854,161	135,028.00
Dried flies (Spanish flies?)	4,526	1,582.00
Oysters	13,696	3,853.00
Goat's hair	2,775	2,075.00
Cow's hair	6,593	2,958.00
Fine pearls	620,620	70,000.00
Fresh fish	7,774	2,079.00

	Kgs	
Salt fish	150,790	26,315.00
Hoofs	58,391	6,220.00
Goat skins without tanning	2,104,953	2,250,236.00
Boar (wild) skins without tanning	18,219	10,479.00
Lizard skins, without tanning	15,577	9,107.00
Ox skins without tanning	15,773,073	8,248,399.00
Deer skins, without tanning	247,653	378,725.00
Skins of other animals not specified, such as coyotes, lions, cats, etc.	322,900	129,587.00
Heron plumes	12,970	7,765.00
Plumes of birds not specified	30,080	35.00
Grease	5,942	796.00
Other animal products not specified	207,379	208,827.00

Total value of animal products....$ 19,842,830.00

Miscellaneous

	Kgs	Value in Mex. Pesos
Comestibles not specified (crackers, bread, eggs, preserves, etc.	18,955	$ 8,124.00
Re-exported foreign merchandise	8,244,943,825	1,554,461.00
Samples with and without value	32,435	23,073.00
Objects of natural history	583	700.00
Rags	80,174	14,690.00
Other diverse products not specified	70,793	24,578.00

Total value of miscellaneous products....$ 1,630,626.00

TOTAL VALUE OF EXPORTED PRODUCTS....$229,808,096.00
(Divide by two in order to give values in American gold)

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS EXPORTED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR 1912-13

Their Quantities and Declared Value

MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS	Kgs	Value in Mex. Pesos
Diverse oils (of cotton linseed, turnip olive, lubricating oils, etc.	1,608,454	$ 35,052.00
Cane rum (or sugar cane brandy)	312,482	76,623.00
Grape brandy	65	50.00
Mezcal brandy	9,194	2,432.00
White lead	290	270.00
Jewelry	73,755	3,700.00
Starch	120	20.00
Sugar	5,496,437	860,582.00
Empty barrels	78,958	4,509.00
Empty bottles	6,371	622.00
Footwear (shoes, etc.)	309	80.00
Beer	467,553	89,167.00
Glue	283	227.00
Paintings (oil, water, etc.)	1,368	19,700.00
Chocolate	1,427	789.00
Drugs (all kinds of medicines and chemical products)	677,953	1,189,377.00
Candies, pastries, etc.	4,647	2,368.00
Figures (or statues of wax, clay, rag and chalk)	6,309	2,460.00
Photographs	691	4,713.00
Corn meal	48,492	4,973.00
Cotton seed meal and paste	12,631,933	521,358.00
Wheat flour	50,795	5,296.00
Henequen (Sisal hemp) in hammocks	112	480.00
Henequen (Sisal hemp) in bales, cables, sacks, and other manufactures	45,569	15,966.00
Agave fiber, in hammocks	70	21.00
Agave fiber, in bales, cables, sacks and other manufacturers	1,820	1,061.00
Soap	19,589	3,770.00
Toys and curiosities not specified	562	470.00
Books and printed matter	17,531	17,778.00
Lithographs	26	50.00
Porcelain (or china ware)	50,275	3,682.00
Maps and plans	1,422	1,430.00
Cut marble	135	147.00
Materials for construction (abodes, sand, lime, bricks, etc.)	756,566	4,362.00
Furniture	48,945	45,887.00
Tanned leather or skins	1,099	21,717.00
Paints (in cakes, powder, etc.)	3,014	1,730.00
Pulque	946	407.00
Cheese	4,106	1,545.00
Empty sacks not specified	11,211	4,196.00
Bran	4,974,050	203,659.00
Felt hats	250	1,757.00
Palm hats	770,552	557,423.00
Saddles	612	2,046.00
Cigars, cigarettes, etc.	98,019	319,531.00
Cotton textiles	407	1,712.00
Wines	6,450	5,019.00
Other manufactured products not specified	1,254,735,460	293,054.00

Total value of manufactured products....$ 3,345,265.00
(Divide by two in order to give values in American gold.)

BANKS

The condition of the Banks of Issue down to the 31st of March, 1917, at which date the most exact details could be obtained, is as follows:

Bills in circulation	$183,201,463.25
Deposits payable at sight	30,942,298.92
Cash on hand	42,015,552.32

The condition of the Banks of Issue, and the Hypothecary Banks and the Banks of Redemption in 1911, according to the details as stated by the Annual Report of the Ministry of Fomento (Public Improvements) was as follows:

Capital	$178.600,000.00
Circulation	176,250,606.00
Deposits	159,384,769.00
Reserve funds	63,476,452.02
Cash on hand	92,269,659.02
Other assets	521,910,901.59

FINANCIAL CONDITION

There are no details obtainable concerning the public finances during the last four years, for the reason that this period was the most unsettled of the revolution; however, the following figures may serve to form an idea of the financial condition of the country prior to 1914.

INCOMES AND DISBURSEMENTS

FISCAL YEAR 1911-12

Incomes	$105,203.086.70
Disbursements	96,985,953.02

1912-13

Incomes	120.958,902.18
Disbursements	110,781,871.18

1913-14

Probable incomes	129.607.000.00
Determined disbursements	129,412,632.62

The movement of funds during the period of the Constitutionalist Revolution, of which a record was made, shows, according to the report of the General Treasury of the Nation, the following:

Total income from duties (or imposts):

In gold	$ 75.000.000.00
In paper	236,000,000.00
Total	$341,000,000.00

The Disbursements of the Revolution were the following:

In gold	$ 96,427,463.00
In paper	855,810,919.00

The project of law for the budget of 1917-18, has not down to date, been approved by the Chamber of Deputies.

The public revenues, from the 1st of May, last, when the Constitutional regime began, have been increasing. The cash on hand, according to concentrated figures at the offices of the Ministry of Finance, demonstrate the aforesaid increase by the following figures:

On the 1st of May	$ 5,583,722.55
On the 1st of June	5,817.000.85
On the 1st of July	6,985,922.21
On the 1st of August	8,321,028.51

These figures do not show the total of the incomes.

The public expenditures incurred since the first of May to the 10th of August, amount to $22,500,000.00 in round numbers.

PUBLIC DEBT

Titled public debt(?)	$427,146,605.22
Net interest due and payable, down to the 30th of June, 1916	45,651,533.74
Net interest due down to the 30th of June, 1917, calculated in round numbers	24.340.000.00
Approximate debt of the Revolution	125,000.000.00
Approximate total	$622,138,138.96

(All the foregoing figures should be divided by two in order to give values in American gold.)

Mexico City, 6th November, 1917.

LATEST COMMERCIAL STATISTICS

The latest commercial statistics compiled by the United States disclose that for the year ending June 30, 1917, the balance of trade showed a difference in favor of Mexico of $33,478.784. American merchants took $112,138,677 in Mexican products, while the Mexicans took $78.659,893 of American products.

The following table shows the exportations and importations for the year 1913-14, as compared with those for the year 1916-17, between the United States and the Latin-American countries. (The figures given are American dollars):

Countries	Exportation		Importation	
Mexico	$ 92,690,566	$112,138,677	$ 38,748,793	$ 78,659,893
Guatemala	4,078,612	10,057,330	3,601,813	5,391,348
El Salvador	1,158,320	5,010,855	2,155,138	4,402,433
Honduras	3,130,328	4,687,155	4,873,512	5,697,620

Countries	Exportation		Importation	
Nicaragua	1,395,248	3,026,058	2,629,034	4,533,763
Costa Rica	3,570,364	5,620,145	3,501,386	3,914,244
Panama	4,509,719	7,585,331	22,678,234	28,788,916
Cuba	131,303,794	253,395,410	68,884,428	178,883,248
Rep. Dominicana	3,876,834	14,892,299	4,917,201	13,795,068
Haiti	691,807	4,234,531	5,540,705	7,359,391
Total for North American countries	$246,405,592	$420,647,791	$157,530,244	$331,425,924
Argentina	$ 45,123,988	$152,612,411	$ 45,179,089	$ 82,382,884
Bolivia	70	44,161	1,145,555	2,900,545
Brasil	101,329,073	151,638,245	29,963,914	56,761,252
Chile	25,722,128	113,789,130	17,432,392	44,573,185
Colombia	16,051,120	28,965,920	6,786,153	14,906,786
Ecuador	3,595,456	10,667,783	2,967,759	6,079,896
Paraguay	64,651	66,003	173,191	174,793
Peru	12,175,723	36,379,016	7,141,252	18,885,174
Uruguay	7,715,144	30,406,532	5,641,266	14,292,135
Venezuela	9,763,069	15,018,567	5,401,386	12,885,222
Totals for South American countries	$221,540,422	$539,587,768	$121,831,957	$253,841,872
Totals of Latin-American countries	$467,946,014	$960,235,559	$279,362,201	$585,267,796

OFFICIAL TREASURY STATEMENT

The movement of funds in the Ministry of Finance during the three months of July, August and September, exceeded ninety million pesos.

The Disbursement Department of that Ministry, issued on the 17th of November, a detailed report as to the receipts and disbursements for that period. It is worthy of special note that because of the army expenses, the disbursements totalled in ninety days, almost thirty-four million pesos.

On the other hand, and according to details obtained at the Department of Finance, it is known that the estimate of disbursements for one year, will reach 211 million pesos, while that of 1912 to 1913 only amounted to $111,369,591.74. It can thus be seen that there has been an increase in the annual expenses of the government of almost 100 million pesos.

Movements During Three Months of July to September

Cash on hand on the first of July, as follows:

In National gold	Pesos	3,904,644.43	
In dollars, $1,969,556.82; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	3,939,113.64	
			7,843,718.07
Receipts by concentrations:			
In National gold	Pesos	46,184,353.10	
In dollars, $6,930,407.50; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	13,860,815.00	
			60,045,168.10
Receipts through diverse means:			
In National gold	Pesos	23,177,969.33	
In dollars, $856,994.70; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	1,713,989.40	
			24,891,958.73
Total	Pesos		92,780,844.90
Disbursements by concentrations:			
In National gold	Pesos	27,583,106.74	
Dollars, $3,677,040.35; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	7,354,080.70	
			34,937,187.44
Disbursements through the branch of war:			
In National gold	Pesos	29,337,396.28	
Dollars, $1,996,362.10; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	3,992,704.20	
			33,330,100.40
Disbursements through diverse branches:			
In National gold	Pesos	13,370,591.50	
Dollars, $3,059,355.46; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	6,118,710.92	
			19,489,302.42
Cash on hand on 30th of September:			
In National gold	Pesos	2,975,832.34	
Dollars, $1,024,211.11; at the rate of 2 to 1	Pesos	2,048,422.22	
			5,024,254.56
Total	Pesos		92,780,844.90

What the Exportation of Oil Produced

There have been collected as export duties on oil during the two last months, only at the Custom House at Tampico, and at the corresponding fiscal agencies, one million two hundred thousand pesos.

There are still lacking the returns as to the amounts received as stamp tax on mineral oil for exportation, at Tuxpam and Puerto Mexico. (This will nearly double the amount.—Ed.)

It is to be noted that the receipts for the revenues have increased considerably, for in previous periods the duties collected for the exportation of oil hardly amounted to three million pesos yearly.

STATISTICS FROM OTHER SOURCES

The following statistics from unofficial sources are of interest in addition to the foregoing official figures. (The amounts given are in American gold.)

PRINCIPAL IMPORTS FROM MEXICO TO UNITED STATES

	1914	1915	1916
Coffee, lbs.	43,551,343	52,205,373	51,779,844
Coffee	$6,755,955	$6,625,840	$6,686,182
Copper Ore, gross weight, tons	80,518	71,067	163,168
Copper Ore, copper cont., lbs.	15,495,694	14,707,724	33,525,559
Copper Ore	$1,882,728	$1,906,324	$7,394,396
Copper manufactures, lbs.	43,193,868	15,973,838	62,391,123
Copper manufactures	$6,009,328	$2,726,367	$14,197,120
Sisal Grass, tons	197,340	176,055	211,321
Sisal Grass	$22,283,373	$19,133,777	$25,479,127
Straw Hats, etc.	239,313	397,127	207,152
Hides, Cattle, lbs.	37,750,732	50,808,523	32,374,236
Hides, Cattle	$6,367,722	$8,357,078	$5,876,718
Goat skins, lbs.	4,008,561	3,304,193	4,345,916
Goat skins	$1,165,461	$901,095	$1,218,428
Lead and Lead manufactures, lbs.	46,267,361	93,558,927	37,678,597
Lead and Lead manufactures	$1,498,510	$3,152,196	$1,828,445
Mahogany, 1,000 ft.	7,617	7,446	7,069
Mahogany	$512,785	$471,445	$535,389

PRINCIPAL EXPORTS TO MEXICO FROM UNITED STATES

	1914	1915	1916
Agricultural Implements	$127,609	$96,810	$196,699
Corn, bu.	782,005	2,883,700	3,498,948
Wheat, bu.	260,364	132,471	42,319
Automobiles	$111,334	$160,467	$603,776
Coal, bituminous, tons	359,802	279,013	196,547
Coal, bituminous	$1,450,402	$1,237,153	$736,171
Cotton, unmanufactured, bales	29,655	33,133	4,520
Cotton, unmanufactured, lbs.	15,872,670	17,660,560	2,367,750
Cotton, unmanufactured	$1,455,366	$1,858,186	$307,198
Cotton Cloths, yds.	8,231,870	11,761,191	61,088,413
Cotton cloths	$690,771	$863,207	$4,781,596
Locomotives, steam	2	17	54
Locomotives, steam	$15,510	$168,300	$384,805
Pipes and Fittings cast, lbs.	———	1,981,079	10,224,797
Wrought Pipes, lbs.	———	11,286,231	23,494,808
Rails for Railways, tons	960	2,653	3,959
Iron, Steel Sheets and Plates, lbs.	5,536,578	4,284,430	6,983,790
Structural Iron and Steel, tons	1,616	1,272	3,597
Tinplate, etc., lbs.	3,488,252	7,710,940	3,828,929
Wire, barbed, etc., lbs.	5,692,724	3,585,393	3,609,808
Wire, barbed, etc.	$137,620	$105,262	$155,038
Bacon, lbs.	225,342	136,391	313,248
Lard, lbs.	2,988,262	6,456,558	10,363,916
Oils. Crude, gals.	9,207,354	10,132,665	7,972,448
Lubricating, gals.	694,436	745,739	619,608
Cottonseed, lbs.	6,347,683	3,198,312	999,712
Paper, News Print, lbs.	1,342,640	4,525,022	5,537,920
Paraffine Wax, lbs.	9,216,906	5,088,646	3,581,732
Boards, Planks, etc., M ft.	46,878	31,054	44,085
Wool wearing apparel	———	$236,921	$276,630

EXPORTS FROM MEXICO AT DIFFERENT PERIODS

PRODUCT	1875	1900	1914
Quinine			
Fine woods	896,962	2,430,702	7,124,688
Cocoa and chocolate	595,128	6,210,035	21,503,983
Coffee	50,591,488	52,467,943	111,456,524
Cork	108,047	1,909,483	6,499,632
Cotton	408,808	7,969,945	20,803,635
Dyes and colors	973,519	1,083,664	3,337,228
Plumes	9,204	1,736,458	4,871,663
Fibers	2,147,811	24,277,272	51,539,636
Fruits	13,086,459	19,263,092	61,595,395
Gums	2,807,164	6,884,704	12,741,609
Rubber and Guttapercha	4,675,490	31,792,607	72,156,437
Indigo	649,724	1,446,490	1,093,226
Licorice root	953,928	1,657,256	2,047,192
Raw and prepared opium	2,037,793	2,189,721	1,810,429
Rice	1,547,697	2,279,036	7,652,017
Tapioca			
Olive Oil	230,890	411,029	8,394,190
Raw silk	4,918,350	45,329,760	100,930,025
Spices	2,285,525	3,401,029	5,595,509
Sponges	118,129	536,303	481,973
Sugar and Molasses	85,014,578	85,949,891	156,534,946
Tea	22,673,303	10,558,110	16,735,302
Tobacco	6,861,384	15,661,360	35,608,109
Vanilla	348,120	1,209,334	2,277,675
Vegetable Oils	1,806,613	6,320,711	23,130,549
Totals	205,746,114	332,975,955	735,921,572

LATEST NEWS NOTES

Acting under instructions from Spain, the single line of steamers to that country from Vera Cruz has been directed to receive no shipments of products from Mexico.

The fifth medical congress of the Republic is to be held in the city of Vera Cruz during the first fortnight of January. A large attendance is expected and many important matters will be discussed.

Governor Candido Aguilar, of the State of Vera Cruz, has submitted a proposed law to the State Congress forbidding bullfighting under any circumstances and establishing severe penalties for any infraction of the statutes.

The archives of the Zapata headquarters, which were recently captured, with all the supplies and armament on hand, have been turned over to the Government for examination. Many interesting facts are expected as a result.

At the municipal elections recently held in the city of Mexico there were five separate parties represented in the campaign and there was a warm contest at the polls. The election passed off quietly and without disturbance of any kind.

The Agricultural Congress of the State of Guanajuato has petitioned the Department of Fomento for an allotment of suitable lands as well as for an appropriation of funds for the establishment of agricultural schools in various portions of the State.

Announcement is made that it is proposed to establish an Efficiency Commission in connection with the Treasury Department, for the purpose of examining all applicants for positions, as well as incumbents, and determining their capability for various posts.

The question of the civil responsibility of the authors and accomplices of the treason of February, 1913, is under discussion in the Chamber of Deputies, and a law will be passed defining the same and establishing the means to be used to enforce such responsibility.

The Governor of the State of Michoacan has under consideration the establishment of agricultural experimental stations in various portions of that State in order to instruct farmers in the most desirable and modern methods of cultivation of the soil.

The details of the project for the establishment of the sole bank of emission in the Republic have been agreed upon by the Council of Ministers and have been presented to the Chamber of Deputies for consideration. They have not yet been published.

The Bureau of Archaeology and Ethnology is preparing to issue a series of volumes containing the results of explorations in various portions of the Republic, notably at San Juan Teotihuacan as well as in several localities in the Valley of Mexico.

What is believed to have been the site of the ancient Aztec temple of the god Texcaltlipoca has been discovered in the heart of the city and the Director of Ethnology and Archaeology is having excavations made which promise most interesting results.

The press of Mexico City continues to publish with regularity announcements of the restoration of community lands to their former and rightful owners, of petitions for such restitution, and of the allotment of lands for new communities in various portions of the Republic.

Official announcement is made that arrangements mutually satisfactory have been made between the Government and the owners of the Cananea copper mines in Sonora, and that operations will be resumed at once—December 10th having been the date set for resumption.

Tests of American tractors made by the Department of Agriculture in the State of Guanajuato demonstrated their ability to plow land and to convey heavy loads at small expense. The tests were satisfactory in every way and will doubtless lead to the introduction of machinery of this class upon a large scale.

A valuation has recently been placed upon the various objects in the National Archaeological Museum, the total reaching over four millions of dollars, which is claimed to be not more than fifty per cent of the real value. It is stated that two millions of dollars have been offered and refused for the famous Aztec calendar stone alone.

A temporary settlement has been discovered near the boundary line in a remote portion of the State of Sonora, whose inhabitants afford a strange mixture of Italians, French, Poles, Montenegrins, Servians, Germans, Austrians, Turks and other nationalities, including many Americans. It is claimed that they are seeking to avoid military service in the United States. The location is so isolated that the colonists have little communication with the inhabitants of the counry.

LIC. RAMON OBREGON
CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
MEXICO, D. F.
P. O. B. NO. 590
MONTE DE PIEDAD
NO. 13

The Truth About Sisal

Send a letter or postcard with a request that your name and address be entered on the permanent mailing list of the Comision Reguladora del Mercado de Henequen, the largest and most successful co-operative association of farmers in the world.

If you want to know the truth about binder twine, the reasons for recent advances in price and the identity of the powerful interests that are back of the campaign that has been waged against the Yucatan co-operative marketing association of sisal producers, the Comision Reguladora will take pleasure in mailing you literature from time to time.

If you read Spanish, send $2.50 for a year's subscription to "EL HENEQUEN," a semi-monthly magazine issued by the growers' association at its home office in Merida, Yucatan.

COMISION REGULADORA DEL MERCADO DE HENEQUEN,
120 Broadway, New York City.

The Mexican Review

Vol. II WASHINGTON, D. C., FEBRUARY, 1918 No. 5

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The Mexican News Bureau
Accurate News Service by Wire or Mail

ASKS EDITORS TO AVOID UNFRIENDLY COMMENT

A dispatch from Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, states that Governor Niceforo Zambrano recently called the leading editors of that city together and held a lengthy interview with them. He urged them most earnestly to observe moderation in their treatment of matters of an international character in order to avoid unnecessary friction between the two countries. He called attention to the negotiations between the respective governments of Mexico and the United States, for the exchange of food articles of prime necessity, etc., and to the importance of cultivating friendly relations and abstention from criticism calculated to provoke ill feeling. The editors, who represented all the important papers of the State, assured the Governor that his request would be heeded and that they would co-operate with him in every way toward the desired end.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS FAVORABLE

El Pueblo of January 24th contained the following information regarding the condition of the Treasury Department:

"Because of the rumors publicly circulated that the financial situation of the Government was precarious for lack of sufficient funds, we have interviewed regarding the situation Mr. Antonio Madrazo, the chief official of the Department of the Treasury. (Secretary Nieto is now absent in the United States.) Mr. Madrazo declares that the Federal Government, while not in a position of 'bonanza,' still is in receipt of a sufficient income to cover the payment of all salaries and to meet the other expenses that are the most necessary. In the past few days the National Treasury has received the sum of four hundred thousand pesos from petroleum export taxes alone for the last two months, and this amount has been used for the payment of the troops and for other necessities."

AMERICANS WHO WILL CO-OPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT

The statement has been published in the Mexico City papers that with the object of making commercial relations between the United States and Mexico more intimate, Mr. Nelson C. Rhoades, a prominent North American, who has extensive interests in Mexico, in company with Mr. James R. Garfield, an ex-cabinet minister under President Roosevelt, has undertaken to organize a syndicate of Americans which shall be under the direction of a single person and will be established in accordance with the laws of Mexico. Those interested in the movement possess extensive interests in the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Chihuahua and the Territory of Lower California. In an interview Mr. Rhoades declared that the object of the league in part was as follows:

He said: "My associates, it is true, have suffered in common with the Mexicans from the disturbances and difficulties inherent to a condition of abnormality, such as has prevailed in Mexico for several years past, but they have never protested against this, nor have they made use of diplomatic representations in any way whatever. When it has been found necessary we have treated directly with the Mexican Government regarding our affairs, and in every case have received prompt attention. We have a desire to collaborate in the work of reconstruction of the country, and to render our proportionate aid to Mexican institutions."

It is Mr. Rhoades' intention to do all that lies within his power to bring the foreigners of all nationalities, and especially of the United States, to the same way of thinking as that of himself and his associates, as he believes that this is the only method by which the most friendly relations between the two countries can be established and preserved.

Announcement is made that as a result of the successful operation of the Workingmen's Congress of the State of Sonora, similar bodies will be established in other portions of the Republic for the purpose of handling all questions pertaining to labor and of carrying out the provisions of the new constitution in this direction.

A petition has been presented by local capitalists to the Secretary of Communications and Public Works asking for a concession to construct an electric railway connecting the cities of Puebla and Mexico. It will probably be granted, as such a line is greatly needed.

MIDWINTER SHIPMENTS OF TOMATOES

Reports from Nogales, Arizona, state that the movement of the midwinter crop of fresh tomatoes from the Los Mochis country, in the State of Sinaloa, have commenced. Several carloads are arriving on each day's train from that region and it is expected that the entire season's output will reach one thousand carloads.

Los Mochis is situated on the Fuerte River, a few miles from the port of Topolobampo, in the northern portion of the State of Sinaloa. It is the locality of one of the largest sugar plantations and refineries in the Republic, the property of American capitalists, and which is now in full operation. Before the revolutionary troubles it had been demonstrated that this region afforded exceptional opportunities for the production of vegetables such as tomatoes, canteloupes, etc., at seasons when the greater portion of the United States was wrapped in winter snow, and the earlier efforts in this direction brought the enterprising growers large profits. Now that peace has been restored, the industry has again been taken up, with the results noted.

It is interesting in this connection to note that the Fuerte River valley is in the same general direction as the territory that has been said in sensational newspaper reports to have been overrun and completely devastated by the Yaquis.

PRESIDENT CARRANZA'S MOVEMENTS

President Carranza passed a portion of the midwinter holidays in a journey to Queretaro, Pachuca and other prominent cities within easy reach of the capital city, both for the purpose of recuperation and in order to note the many improvements in educational, industrial and other directions that had been brought about as the result of the Revolution.

He returned to Mexico City on *January 17th* and resumed the duties of his office, a number of important decrees and regulations having been issued by him since that date and numerous telegraphic dispatches having been received in this city from his offices in the National Palace.

His return from his vacation journey was displayed at length in the city press and was well known to all newspaper correspondents and the general public, there having been no mystery of any kind in connection with the affair.

Steamers are to be sent to Venezuela to bring cargoes of corn, the crop in that country having been abundant, and there being a large surplus available for export at moderate prices.

Mexico's Foreign Policy

Ambassador Bonillas Says It Is Strict Neutrality and Gives Unanswerable Arguments Therefor

ANY efforts which Germany or any other nation may make to involve Mexico in the world war are doomed to failure, according to Señor Ing. Ygnacio Bonillas, the Mexican Ambassador here. Señor Bonillas, in response to inquiry, outlined some of the important features of Mexico's foreign policy in an interview recently published in the Washington *Post*. Directness and frankness characterized the interview.

"There is nothing mysterious about Mexico's foreign policy," he said. "Reports to the contrary are based, perhaps, on failure to understand properly some of the guiding principles of our present action.

"Our chief aim now is to remain neutral. To us this is not only a just, but a necessary policy. Mexico's position is not like that of other countries, which until recently have enjoyed the benefits of peace, and have now felt it necessary to embark upon a policy of war.

Compares United States and Mexico

"Compare the position of the United States with that of Mexico, for example. While Mexico was engaged in her death struggle for liberty, while we were destroying ourselves in pursuance of our liberation, man against man and brother against brother, you were at peace.

"Now you are at war and we are at peace. Should we develop our resources as a means to remedying the destruction which war always brings and reconstruct the country, or should we interrupt our construction work to seek out a policy which even your own leaders agree would be detrimental to the interests of the Mexican people?

"If the question of Mexico's national honor or Mexico's sovereign rights were involved, a deliberate policy of self-sacrifice might be necessary. But Germany has not given us cause for resentment. We have no ships, and our interests have not been injured.

Cannot Afford to Participate

"We cannot afford to participate in the war on one side or the other if we can honorably avoid it. Our policy is, therefore, one of peace and reconstruction as against war and its ravages.

"As to what extent Mexicans sympathize with the German or entente and American cause, this depends on the circumstances which govern individual opinions.

"There are many in Mexico whose interests are interwoven with German interests or have been educated in Germany or are related to Germans. Their sympathies are with Germany.

"There are many, on the other hand, whose interests are linked with those of the United States or have been educated in your country or lived part of their lives here. They sympathize with the American point of view.

"There is particular sympathy for France among the cultured class. There is undoubtedly a great love for France in Mexico due to various reasons.

German Storekeepers in Mexico

"The German colony in Mexico has established business connections, and stores selling drugs, hardware, cutlery, are in many cases kept by Germans. It seems to have been a German policy to send young men to Mexico who marry there, bring up their families and become part of the Mexican people.

Ambassador Ygnacio Bonillas

"This division of sympathy has naturally led to sharp differences of opinion on matters pertaining to the war. Comment in the press reflects it. I am asked sometimes why such and such a newspaper prints articles favorable to Germany and against the United States, and suggestion is made that the Government should suppress this.

"But muzzling the press is precisely what the Government does not want to do. We have had freedom of the press suppressed in Mexico in the past, and our fight for freedom was aimed at just this form of tyranny. Newspapers in Mexico may attack or defend Germany or the United States or entente countries, or quarrel among themselves over war matters without restriction, if they keep within the law.

Cordial Relations With Japan

"Our relations with Japan are very cordial," the Ambassador continued. "When we could not get arms during the revolution anywhere else we bought them in Japan. We also purchased from Japan some ammunition and a second hand ammunition factory. Japan has from time to time sent commissions to Mexico to study the institutions and resources and now we have sent one to Japan to develop commercial relations.

"This Mexican commission is headed by Gen. Bouchez, who was in charge of our ammunition factory in Mexico. He will make a particular study of Japanese methods and bring back all the useful knowledge he can.

"Relative to internal conditions in Mexico, the Government is stamping out the last signs of banditry and opposition. Villa is not a serious factor and Zapata was very nearly captured recently by Government forces. Our forces captured his equipment and his prize mare, but Zapata escaped in his nightclothes on foot.

Expects Defeat of Pelaez

"There is still Manuel Pelaez, in the jungle near the Tampico oil wells, who must be removed as a menace to Government authority, and we have reason now to believe that his defiance of Government authority is about at an end. Gen. Manuel M. Dieguez, Governor of the State of Jalisco, has been sent against Pelaez, and he will handle the matter very carefully and judiciously, but at the same time with guarantee of success.

"It is one thing for outsiders to pay blackmail to a bandit in order to get the product they require, but it is a very different thing for them to send him arms and ammunition with which to make war on the Government of Mexico.

"It is preposterous to read anything anti-American in the mission of Don Luis Cabrera to Buenos Aires. He was regularly commissioned by the Government to represent Mexico at the convention of neutral American nations called by Argentina.

"On his way he stopped at Washington to act with me in certain negotiations looking to a modification of restrictions on trade between Mexico and the United States. We wanted your corn; you wanted our metals.

"There was no such friction as the American press has indicated. It has been published that Mr. Cabrera was annoyed because he was directed to apply to the war board instead of treating directly with your State Department. We went to Mr. Lan-

(*Concluded on page 22*)

Facts About the Yaquis

They Are Being Treated Exactly as the United States Treated Her Apaches and for Exactly the Same Reasons

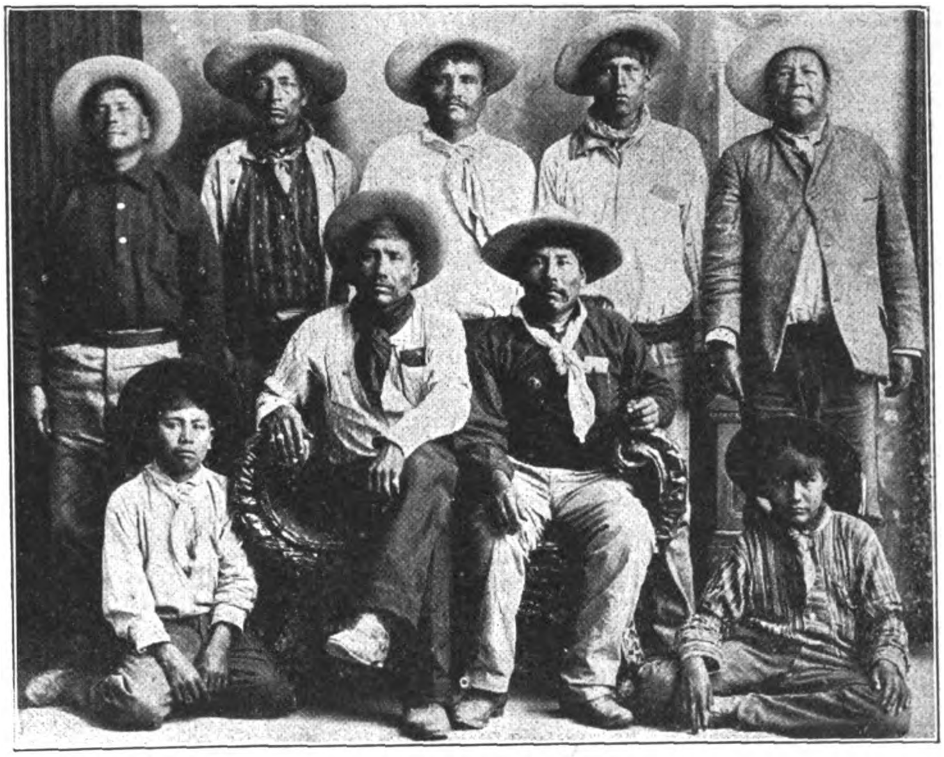
MUCH attention has of late been drawn to the Yaqui Indians of Sonora, owing to the attacks made by them upon railroad trains, settlements, ranches, etc., in that section. There is such widespread misapprehension and many of the published reports are so far from the truth that a brief account of the salient facts regarding the Yaquis may prove of interest.

The Yaquis belong to the same family as the Apaches, who formerly roamed over Arizona, New Mexico and Northern Mexico, and resemble them in appearance as well as character to a great extent. At one time they occupied, or at least dominated, the greater portion of the State of Sonora, having their centers of population along the Yaqui river and notably toward its head waters in the mountains. They were to some extent an agricultural tribe, but subsisted largely upon proceeds of the chase.

They came into prominent public notice in the early part of the 18th century, at which time there were estimated to be some forty thousand, belonging to various branches of the tribe. They had successfully resisted the incursions of the Spanish adventurers and gold seekers, and owing to their distance from the seat of National Government and the isolated position of their settlements they were seldom molested. It was only when they raided settlements in the plains of the coast region that they came into active notice. The history of the tribe from 1740 down to the present time has been that of continuous resistance to control, and opposition to the settlement and development of the territory once dominated by them by outsiders. From the time mentioned down to the present there has been a series of outbreaks and campaigns with the result that from an estimated total of 40,000, as stated, the number of the tribe is not now believed to exceed 13,000 to 15,000 all told.

There are two more or less separately divided groups of the Yaquis. On the one hand are the industrious ones who constitute the major portion of the tribe. They are good workers, are exceptionally intelligent for Indians, find employment in the mines and on the ranches in Sonora and are for the major part peaceably disposed when fairly treated. They are willing to accept the lands allotted to them and to remain there when not employed elsewhere. They constitute from two-thirds to three-fourths of the entire tribe.

On the other hand, there is a considerable element of "Bronco" (wild) Yaquis, who, like our own Apaches, are entirely irreconcilable and make demands upon the Government as the price of their peacefulness that are impossible of fulfillment. They demand that they shall be given control of their entire ancient territory, and this includes the greater portion of the agricultural region of the Yaqui River Valley—the most extensive and important in the State of Sonora, much of which has been brought to a high state of development by Mexican as well as foreign enterprise. Railroads have been constructed, towns built, orchards planted and improvements made in every direction. Yet the "Bronco" Indians demand as the price of their remaining at peace that all this shall be destroyed; that the railroads shall be torn up, the towns obliterated, the ranches allowed to go to ruin—all this in order that they may roam over the region in search of game, as was once their habit.



Group of Yaqui Chiefs

When the Revolution broke out in 1913, General Obregon, General Calles and the Constitutionalist leaders enlisted large numbers of Yaquis in their armies, these coming from the faction distinct from the "Broncos," that is from the peaceful Yaquis. The "Broncos" remained in their mountain fastnesses, with the exception of occasional raids in the valley, while those in the armies were content with the assurance that after the Revolution they would be treated fairly and equitably, lands to be allotted to them as to other natives, and their rights protected to the utmost—something that the Government is more than anxious and willing to do.

But when Villa enlisted Maytorena, the former Governor of Sonora, in his attempt to antagonize the Constitutionalists and bring about conditions of anarchy, the ex-Governor turned to the "Bronco" Yaquis and by the most impossible promises secured the alliance of Chief Urbelejo and some 1500 or 2000 of his followers. They were promised that if they would assist Maytorena and Villa every one of their impossible demands should be complied with. Maytorena, of course, had no intention of keeping his promises, but they sufficed to keep Urbelejo and his followers with him until his final defeat. Then the "Broncos" returned to the mountains and have ever since maintained a condition of sullen rebellion, breaking out occasionally into raids such as have recently taken place.

There is only one remedy for this state of affairs, and that is the same remedy that was applied to our own Apaches when they persisted in their attitude of resistance to the Government and refused to remain upon the lands allotted to them. As the Apaches were finally deported to other portions of the country, so the "Bronco" Yaquis, as fast as they are taken prisoners, are sent to other parts of Mexico—mainly to the Plateau region of the central section, where the climate corresponds very largely to that of their ancient homes, and where they are inducted into the peaceful arts of agriculture and other industries and in time will have homes allotted and will be encouraged to become useful citizens instead of wandering bandits.

This is the Yaqui situation in a nutshell.

The "Bronco" Yaquis are to Mexico what the Apaches in Arizona were to the United States.

Following the example of the United States, they are being sent to new homes and persuaded to adopt a peaceful method of life. If not amenable to persuasion, they are forced to do this.

There is no other possible solution of the trouble with the "Broncos" of the Yaqui tribe, just as there was no other possible solution of the trouble with the Apaches. What the United States did with its turbulent and irreconcilable Indians, Mexico is now doing.

The State of Campeche

A Picturesque and Historical Region, With Great Wealth of Natural Resource

THE State of Campeche is one of the group that form the extreme southeastern portion of the Republic, occupying the peninsula that separates the Gulf of Mexico from the Caribbean sea. It was this region that was the locality of the first discovery of the mainland of the continent just prior to the conquest by Cortez, and it has always played an important part in history.

From the volume on Mexico issued by the Pan-American Union, the following details regarding the State are taken:

Campeche is bounded on the north by the State of Yucatan; on the east by Yucatan and the Territory of Quintana Roo; on the south by the Republic of Guatemala; on the southwest by the State of Tabasco; and on the west by the Gulf of Mexico. Its area is 46,855 square kilometers (18,086 square miles.) Its population (1910) was 85,795, of whom 43,690 were males and 42,105 were females.

The climate is hot, but the rainfall moderate, except on the coast toward the west. Frosts are unknown.

The northern portion of the State lacks water courses, although the region is fertilized by rains, temporary brooks and wells. The southern portion is better supplied. The principal rivers are the Champoton, Chibojá Grande, Mamentel, Palizada, a branch of the Usumacinta, Concepcioón, Balchacay, San Miguel, San Juan, Pakaytum, Nohbican and San Antonio. The Rio Candelaria is the largest in the State and is supposed to have its headquarters in Guatemala, entering Mexico through the Territory of Quintana Roo. These rivers are navigable for short distances, and pass through forests of valuable timber or have cultivated lands on their banks. The Laguna de Terminos, separated from the Gulf by the islands of Puerto Real and Carmen, but communicating with it by narrow channels, is shallow, but the water is sweet; the shores are splendidly wooded. There are other but much smaller lakes and a few lagoons. A few mineral springs are found in the lowlands. The Peninsula of Sabancuy lies between the Lake Terminos and the Gulf.

The agricultural products are rice, cacahuate (peanut), tobacco, cotton, indigo, chile, beans, henequen, and hardwoods. Tropical fruits thrive when cultivated. There are no mines, except the deposits of salt, which form one of the chief industries of the State. The industries are those connected with gathering dye and hardwoods, fishing, agriculture and stock raising, and the manufacture of hammocks, ropes and mats for henequen fiber.

The ports of entry are Campeche, the capital, and Carmen.

A railway, part of the United Railways of Yucatan system, connects Campeche with Merida, 173 kilometers (107 miles.) Active construction is begun to connect Campeche with the City of Mexico, through connection with the Tehuantepec National Railway. The distance between the cities is 1,320 kilometers (820 miles). A short line of 7 kilometers (4.3 miles) runs from Campeche to Lerma.

The Maya Indians still preserve in the State their original language.

Campeche is divided politically into 5 Departments, 20 Municipalities, which contain 2 cities, 7 towns, 49 villages, 180 organized estates and 237 hamlets. The Departments are Campeche, Bolanchenticul, El Carmen and Hecelchakan.

The capital and chief city is Campeche. The port has safe anchorage for vessels of moderate draft, but larger craft must remain some miles away. Regular communication is maintained by steamers of the Compañia Mexicana de Navigacion along the coast; and freight vessels, many of them carrying passengers, ply frequently to foreign ports. The city was founded in 1517, and is therefore very old, but in many respects it is modern, having telegraph and telephones, public buildings of interest, good libraries and museums, a bank, theater, and a hospital.

El Carmen, the second city and seaport, is on an island of the same name at the mouth of the Laguna de Terminos, and is known chiefly for its traffic in dyewoods and logwoods.

BREHME, PHOTO
©
MEXICO CITY

Harbor of Campeche, Mexico

Since the Revolution active measures have been taken for the development of the dormant resources of the State, by the construction of railways and port facilities, the encouragement of capital, the establishment of schools, and in various other ways.

THE GARBANZO CROP

The garbanzo crop in Sonora and Sinaloa has been especially good this year. As the crop is more than sufficient for the inhabitants of the Republic, great quantities are exported.

The greater part of the garbanzo exportations are to Spain, where it is highly appreciated and consumed in great quantities. Agents for the Allies have bought from haciendas in Sonora and Sinaloa large quantities which are being shipped from Guaymas and Mazatlan.

The quantities that the Government receives from export duties, compared with former years, show the unusual size of the crop.

Owners of haciendas in Sonora and Sinaloa have made big profits raising and exporting the garbanzo, as the price is higher than in former years. Well informed persons on the agricultural situation say that the farmers will make a sufficient profit to offset their losses during the revolutionary period.

All the garbanzo crop it is believed cannot be exported owing to the shortness of shipping. The exportation of garbanzos does not injure Mexico in the least, as the crop is thousands of times superior to the quantity required for the country.

Immigration Commissions have been appointed at all ports of entry into the Republic for the purpose of considering the cases of all foreigners desiring admission, as well as of Mexican citizens who may wish to repatriate themselves.

The Government of the State of Yucatan has expended $551,998, or the equivalent of $275,999 in American gold, upon educational matters of various kinds in the past year, and an increased expenditure in the same direction is planned for the future.

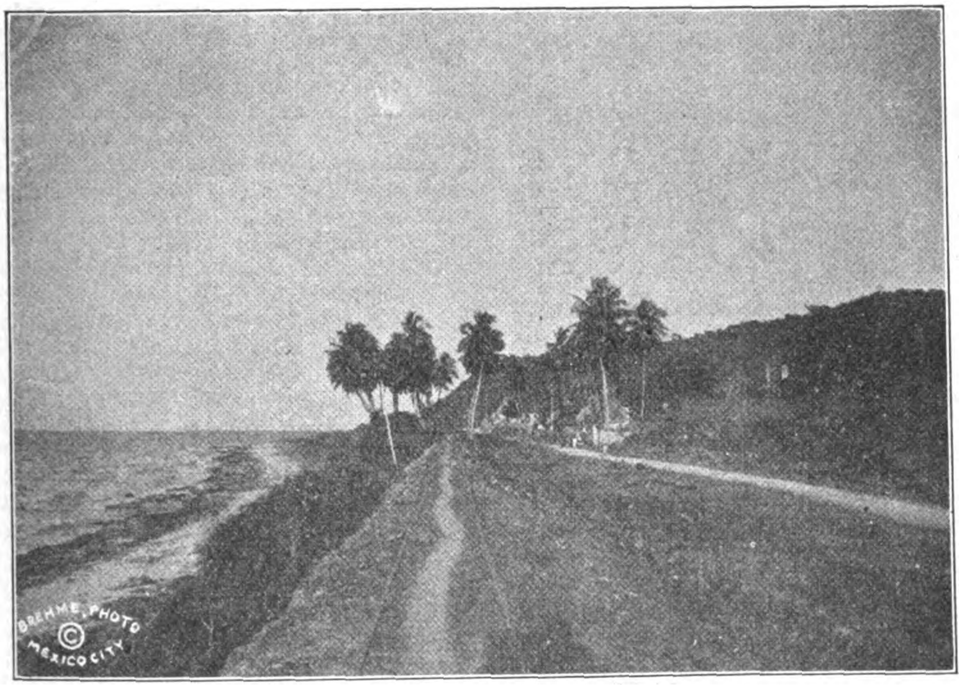
Labor Laws of Mexico State

Ample Protection Afforded as to Hours of Labor, Indemnization, Etc.—Child Labor Prevented

HEREWITH are given the bases for the regulation of labor that have been approved by the Twenty-fourth Legislature of the State of Mexico, and which are in accordance with the new Constitution of the referred State, which was made public on the 8th of December last.

Department of Labor and of Social Provision

Title 3—Bases for the organization of Labor—Article 195. For the unification of all the elements of information and study that may be necessary for the enactment of the laws complementary to Article 123 of the Federal Constitution; for the solution of all necessary branches, there shall be created in the State, as dependency of the Executive Power, a special institution that shall have the name of "Department of Labor and Social Provision." A law shall determine the operation of this institution.



Country Road on the Campeche Coast

Maximum Work Day—Rest—Night Work—Medical Examination—Prohibition of the Employment of the Work of Minors of 15 Years.

Article 196. The Legislature, when enacting the laws concerning labor in accordance with the bases provided for by Article 123 of the Federal Constitution, shall besides adhere itself to the following provisions:

I. When the employer in his own house furnishes to the domestic worker room, meals and medical attention in case of illness, the eight hours of work will be considered as distributed among all the hours of the natural day; but the domestic worker will have the right to dispose, freely, of three hours of each work day, and of six hours during Sundays. These hours will be determined by agreement between the domestic worker and the employer.

II—The prohibited night work does not refer to women of age who are engaged in domestic work, in the care of sick people, or employed in enterprises of public amusement.

III—The municipal authority will have the power to order the examination of all minors of eighteen years of age who are employed in any industrial, agricultural, mining or commercial establishment, and to order the discharge of those whose health and moral development may be hindered by the kind of work that they are performing.

IV—The pay for night work will be double that paid for day work, excepting in the cases of industries that are affected by the influence of the seasons, and those whose products are susceptible to rapid alteration.

V—In no kind of work whatsoever will be employed minors of 15 years who have not received, or are not receiving compulsory primary instruction.

Disabilities For Work

VI—The disabilities for work, resulting from labor with constant risk, and caused by accidents occasioned by the same work, in capitalized enterprises, whose capital is in excess of fifty thousand pesos, shall be of three kinds:

a. Permanent and absolute disability.

b. Permanent and partial disability, or only relative, leaving the worker able to perform work of a different kind.

c. Temporary disability.

The first will be the cause of a minimum pension for life of two-thirds of the daily pay that the worker received.

The second, the payment of a pension, also for life, of two-thirds of the difference between the salary that he was drawing and that which he is able to obtain after his disability, by reason of the decrease of his professional aptitudes.

The third, the payment of all his wages, if the disability lasts less than a month, and a minimum indemnization of three-fourths of his wages, if his disability lasts longer than that term.

Responsibility in Accidents

VII—The supervisors or employers of enterprises referred to in the foregoing section are responsible for the accidents that might happen to their employees by reason or from the exercise of the profession or work that they may undertake, unless the accident may have been due to greater force; and his legitimate heirs will have the right to receive a pension for the length of time that the worker might have lived, in accordance with the table of life probabilities, according to age, as indicated by the Penal Code, taking into consideration the state of health, and in adherence to the following rules.

a. The surviving wife, not divorced or legally separated, and while she remains a widow, shall receive, as a living pension, down to her death, or during the probable life time of the worker, twenty-five per cent of the wages of the latter.

b. If there are wife and legitimate children, or legitimized or natural children, recognized as such, they shall receive as living pension, during the probable life time of the deceased father and husband, or up to the sixteenth year of the age of the children, the following pension: If there is only one minor child, he shall receive fifteen per cent; if there are two, twenty-five per cent; if there are three, thirty-five and forty per cent; if there are more than three without counting the pension that is received by the surviving wife.

c—When there are only minor legitimate or natural children, recognized as such, the living pension, according to the terms of the foregoing section, will be as follows: twenty per cent if there is only one child; thirty per cent if there are two children; forty per cent if there are three children; and fifty per cent if there are more than three children.

d—If there are only dependent parents in direct relation, or dependent descendants, also in direct relation to the deceased, to whom the latter contributed his support, they shall each receive fifteen per cent of the wages or salary of the deceased. The pension will be for life for the parents, and only up to the sixteenth year of age of the descendants. The total amount of this pension should not exceed forty-five per cent of the annual salary (or pay) of the deceased.

Indemnities For Illness

VIII—The indemnities that shall be paid to the workers for professional illness, caused or occasioned by accidents resulting from their employment, will be based on the provisions contained in Section IX of this Article (196).

(Concluded on page 22)

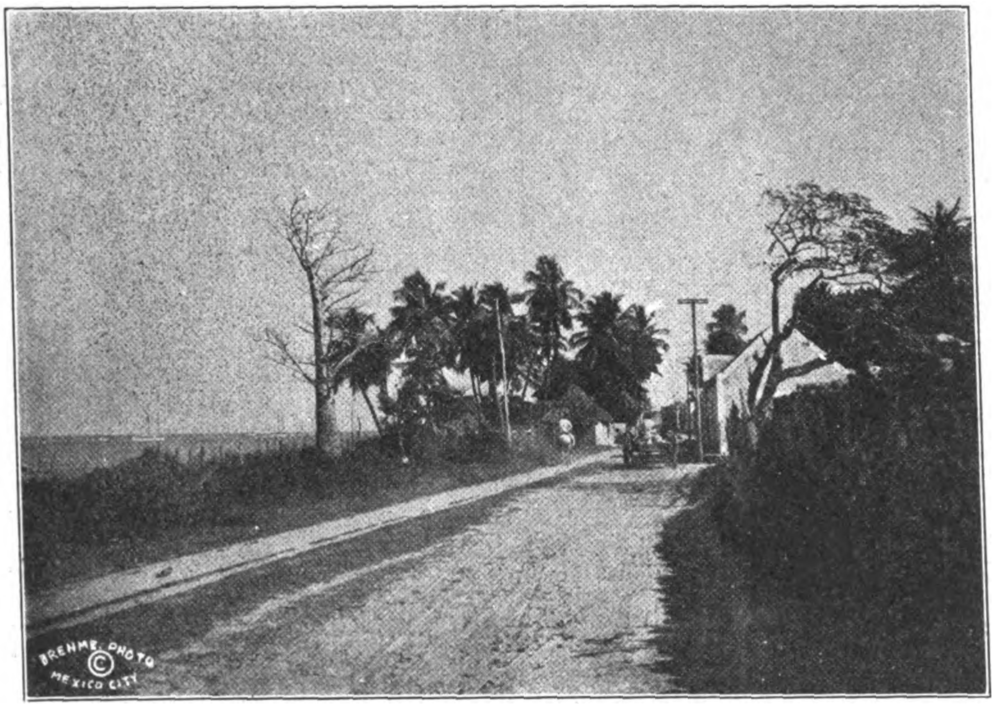
General Obregon's Own Story

The One-Armed Veteran of the Revolution Tells of the Part Taken by Him in the Movement for Independence

BY GEORGE B. WINTON

ALVARO OBREGON, Secretary of War in the Cabinet of Provisional President Carranza, has written a book on his four years of campaigning, entitled "Ocho Mil Kilometros en Campaña," touching more than twenty of the Mexican States and covering a distance of eight thousand kilometres (about 5,000 miles). In a terse and soldierly prologue he states thus the reasons which moved him to write:

"This book is not to be judged by literary standards. Recompense is found in the fact that truth animates every one of its chapters. The obligation which I felt I was under to do strict justice to the men who were my companions in this struggle has impelled me to do this writing myself. The facts are thus preserved from such mutilations as they might have suffered had another less completely equipped than I with documentation told the story.



Railroad Near the City of Campeche

"I shall be exempt from any charge of vanity for writing in the first person when it is recalled that by supplying the data to another I might have secured the preparation of the narrative in words as prodigal of flattery for me as I should be willing to be in favors to the author!

"I am responsible for the accuracy of the statements herein made."

The reader of this story in the original Spanish will find the disclaimer as to its literary quality far too sweeping. In a sense it is not surprising that this phenomenally successful civilian soldier should exhibit literary skill of a high order. Any who had occasion to read his military dispatches, his proclamations and occasional speeches were aware already of his skill in phrasing and of his crisp and brilliant thinking. Some of his remarks already pass current as epigrams. When, for example, Mr. Carranza visited his headquarters in Torreón after months of hard fighting had at last driven Villa into the mountains of Chihuahua and Sonora, Gen. Obregon made an address of welcome of about two minutes' length. Among other things he said: "In these regions, Mr. President, you will find here and there a ranchman complaining bitterly because the revolution has cost him a cow or a mule. On the other hand, there are thousands of mothers who are proud to have given a son to the cause of freedom!"

The literary quality of the narrative is of added interest, especially to those who write, from the fact that the work was dictated. Having lost his right forearm in the campaign against Villa, Gen. Obregon uses the pen now only to scrawl with left-handed deliberation his own signature.

There is a directness and clarity in his literary manner quite in keeping with his military record. As literature, this book reminds the reader of that limpid and moving narrative written by one of America's generals, the Memoirs of U. S. Grant. The Spanish language tends strongly to be flamboyant. Figures, tropes, and rhetoric for rhetoric's sake are both common and popular. But on occasion, in the hands of a man who has something to say and is interested only in conveying the thought, it becomes one of the most sinewy and flexible vehicles known to the art of expression. After the verbosity of Castelar or the looseness of Cervantes, one reads graceful Spanish like that of Juan Valera or this of Alvaro Obregon with a certain vague wonder. Why do they not all write thus? Plainly it is not the fault of the language.

There are two facts about recent Mexican history which have not yet come properly to the attention of the American people. Events are too near. The perspective is blurred. And there have been many conflicting interests and still more clamorous voices. But the financial *tour de force* by which Venustiano Carranza led a successful revolution without army, arms, commissary, or money, has rarely been equalled in the long story of rebellions. Nor has the unexampled fortune that attended Alvaro Obregon, who in four years of fighting lost not a single engagement. Beginning with the time when with tatterdemalion squads of his neighbors he dodged through the dry hills of Sonora, and ending with the engagement near the line between that State and Chihuahua in which he smashed José Rodriguez and the last division of Villa's rebel organization, he was again and again the leader of forlorn hopes. Twice with greatly inferior forces and cut off from all supplies he had to fight decisive battles.

One of these occasions was when he faced the Federals who had come out from Guadalajara to meet him after his long march through the mountains of Tepic. To make that risk all the deadlier, a carefully planned ambuscade was broken up by the thoughtless zeal of one of his subordinates. As a consequence he was forced to fight in the open. So well was the thrust sent home, however, that a Federal army of 12,000 men was absolutely annihilated. As a fighting unit it ceased to exist.

Again, at Aguascalientes, where Villa had gathered men and supplies from all over northern Mexico, and had cut Obregon's line of communication behind him, the attack had to be made by an army practically without artillery, the soldiers suffering with hunger and thirst and most of them having only a handful of cartridges.

Gen. Obregon's unvarnished account of the straits he was in at that time fairly takes away the reader's breath. Again, however, the thrust of the veteran Sonora troops went home; a sudden cavalry demonstration caused Villa to fear for his line of retreat, whereupon panic seized him and his whole army. He ran away at top speed, losing his artillery, his supplies, and nearly all of his trains. Worse still, he lost his prestige as a leader, as this was the fourth time in succession that Obregon had soundly trounced him. That battle was really the end of the Villa rebellion.

The story of Obregon's personal adventures is not less thrilling than that of the military straits through which he carried his men. With the usual Mexican intrepidity and *sang froid* he found himself again and again in the presence of death. His two visits to Villa in the fall of 1914, the first time to try to dissuade Villa himself from openly breaking with Carranza, and the next time to see if he could not detach from the recalcitrant chief some of the men whom he was about to draw off, make stories that are not wanting in thrills. He was several times condemned by Villa to be shot. Once the squad was formed. On this occasion he escaped because of his own coolness and through the intervention of Villa's subordinates. Later a plan to have him executed after he started back to Mexico fell through by accident. But he was held on the verge of execution for more than a week, and himself gave up all hope.

His military success seems to have turned on good fortune, good rifle-shooting by his men (many of them Yaqui Indians), and two or three native endowments on his part of high military value. Chief of these is a sort of clairvoyant perception of what his enemy would do next, that great quality which made Robert E. Lee so difficult an opponent. The next is an invincible boldness and an understanding of the psychological moment for the change from defensive to offensive. It was this which gave him the decision over the vastly superior forces of Villa at Celaya, the most significant of all his victories by reason of its moral effect. He tells an amusing story of how he forced Villa to fight that engagement according to his (Obregon's) plans and not his own, by answering a communication of the foreign consuls in Guanajuato in terms that he knew would enrage his peon adversary.

It is to be hoped that this book, containing, as it does, most of the important documents relating to the military operations against Villa, will be translated and published in English. It may be added that the reader will seek in vain in it for any trace of those alleged clashes with Carranza that the sensational dispatches so often reported, as well as for the uncompromising anti-Americanism with which so many have alleged the Mexican general was animated. He recognizes generously the aid rendered by the American Government when it permitted him to ship troops from Piedras Negras to Douglas, Arizona, and explains how he personally intervened to quiet the disturbance that arose at Matamoros between American and Mexican soldiers.—*New York Times.*

NO TRUTH IN REPORTS OF DEATH BY STARVATION AND COLD

Under date of January 11th, a dispatch from El Paso, published "under cover" as from Juarez, stated:

> "A cold wave is sweeping over Chihuahua and other States of Northern Mexico and causing deaths to hundreds of peons, according to reports here today. Food and fuel are scarce, and cold is reaping a harvest of death and suffering among the poorer classes."

This dispatch was immediately referred to Consul-General Garcia of El Paso, and he replied as follows:

> El Paso, January 13th.
>
> *Mexican News Bureau, Washington:*
>
> Reports regarding Mexicans in Northern Mexico freezing to death *entirely false. Not a single Mexican has died as the result of cold wave or starvation.*
>
> Andres G. Garcia.

The President of the Chamber of Commerce of Durango states that the corn crop in that State is in excess of that of the previous year, and is amply sufficient for all local needs. Owing to the attacks of an insect pest, the bean crop has been less than the average.

MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO SHIPPING POSSIBILITIES

There is a widespread misunderstanding in commercial and other circles regarding the export trade and facilities of Mexico. One of the principal reasons, if not the sole one, for placing an embargo by the United States upon shipments of certain classes of goods and supplies to neutral countries, is to prevent such supplies being reshipped and finding their way to those European countries with which war is now being waged. So far as Mexico is concerned, such reshipment is a practical impossibility under present conditions, or if possible in a limited way in any manner, such fact can readily be ascertained and the movement checked. There is but one direct line of cargo steamers operating between the Atlantic Coast of Mexico and European countries. This is the one that connects Vera Cruz and Tampico with Spain. These steamers, however, after clearing from Mexican ports, call at Havana, and proceed thence to an American port before finally taking departure for their ultimate destination. If they carried contraband goods in quantity that fact would be readily determined in the American port of last departure.

Furthermore, there is no method for conveying supplies in any quantity between Spain and points controlled by the Central Powers, all the avenues for either maritime or land traffic being held by the forces and fleets of the Allies. Hence the difficulty if not impossibility of utilizing Mexico as a half-way point for shipping goods from the United States for use by the Central Powers of Europe, even if there were any intention or desire to do so.

On the west coast of Mexico the only steamer service is maintained by American and Japanese companies, and there too it is an impossibility that shipments of supplies should be made to the countries with which both the United States and Japan are at war. Those who are interested in promoting untrammeled trade relations between the United States and Mexico, for the mutual advantage of each country, believe that much good can be accomplished by a more thorough understanding of the situation and of the possibilities against which it is sought to guard.

NEW OIL DISCOVERIES

Announcement is made that geologists commissioned by the Rothschilds and by the Queen of Holland, who have been making extended research, have discovered valuable deposits of petroleum in the south-eastern portion of the State of Vera Cruz, in the vicinity of Sotavento. It is the intention to enlist French and Holland capital in the development of the newly discovered deposits.

BREHME, PHOTO, © MEXICO CITY

Laguna del Carmen, State of Campeche

THE TAMPICO TRIBUNE

The Review is in receipt of several numbers of the *Tampico Tribune,* a weekly newspaper in the English language published at the metropolis of the Mexican oil region. *The Tribune* is well edited, well printed, and is full of interesting news regarding that section. The names of the editor and publisher are not given, but The Review wishes to congratulate them upon being responsible for a newspaper of which all foreigners may feel proud and which to use a moss-grown phrase, certainly "fills a long felt want."

The Department of Foreign Relations reports that the receipts of the consulates in various foreign countries for the past two months have been largely in excess of any previous record, showing an increase in importations and in commerce generally.

The sum of $1,000,000 Mexican gold, equivalent to $500,000 American gold, has been appropriated by the Government for the purchase of corn in the United States in order to relieve the temporary scarcity in certain portions of the Republic.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

VIII

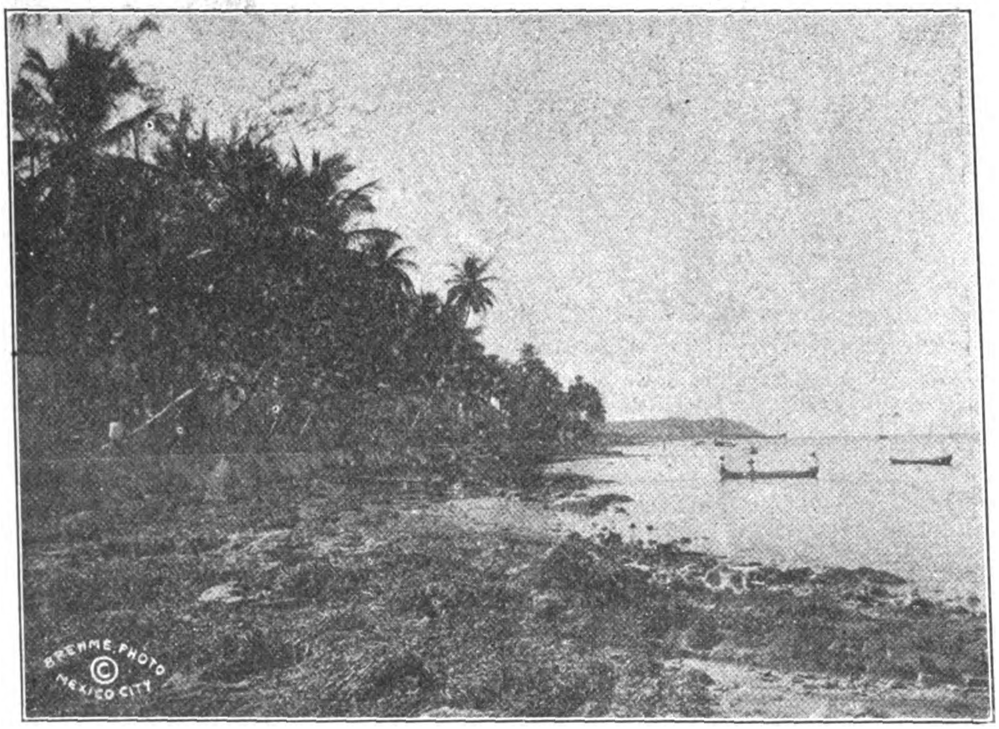
An Open-Air Movie Exhibition

IF the writer who pre-empted the title "Far From the Madding Crowd," could have known Cuatro Cienegas as "El Gringo" came to know it, both from his own especial settee in the shade of the china-berry tree in the plaza, as well as from his wanderings about the town and its outskirts, he would have conceded beyond the peradventure of a doubt that no spot in his own country, no matter how secluded or how remote, could for one moment excel or even compare with it in loneliness or in the absence of anything that savored of the presence of a crowd, whether madding or not.

The pretty little hamlet lay off the beaten path of traveler or tourist. Few ever came thither except on business bent, and when that was transacted, departure was quickly taken. On occasion the solitary daily train arriving about midday discharged an infrequent foreigner. "El Gringo's" coign of vantage was so situated that none could enter the town without passing under his more or less eagle eye, and if a single one managed in a year and a half to escape the welcoming hand and voice of his fellow-countryman or fellow-foreigner, as the case might be, as quickly as he entered the hotel, no record was kept of such untoward event. There were none! At the first glimpse of a foreign face, "El Gringo" hastened across to the hostelry and welcomed and was welcomed by the visitor. Many a pleasing acquaintance was made in this manner, and the assistance and information afforded the newcomer amply compensated the pleasure of meeting a compatriot.

The annual "fiesta" was the only event that drew any number of strangers Cienegas-ward, and its brief week ended, the place lapsed again into its usual somnolence.

Of a truth, it was a good place for one to rest and think—or perhaps merely to think that he was thinking! A good place to let one's mind lie fallow; to let the old crop of thoughts and fancies die out completely, or to be turned under, buried and put out of sight, to fertilize and give place to a fresher, newer growth that eventuated mayhap in a fresher, newer, better harvest. As the Hebrews of old were commanded, and with good reason, to permit their lands to remain uncultivated one year in seven, to lie fallow and rest, why should not human kind give themselves surcease from toil, if not as often as did the ancients with their lands, at least at proper intervals? Surely, if mere earth profits by such a rest, why should not the human mind and body reap equal benefit therefrom?



Coast Scene in Campeche

But while Cienegas was quiet and sleepy, innocent of excitement as a rule, still there were times when a ripple of novelty and interest swept over the community (as related elsewhere for example), and such an occasion was afforded by the advent of the first moving picture that had ever come to the community—absolutely the first! It is difficult in these days of such displays, when every hamlet in the land has its "movie theater," to imagine such an unusual event, and still more difficult to imagine the intense interest and surprise manifested by those who had never seen anything of the kind in all their lives, long or short as the case might be. Some, it is true, had witnessed such exhibitions in their infrequent visits to Monterrey, the metropolis of this section, or who had ventured across the border and as far as San Antonio, the pleasure-affording Mecca of holiday makers from Mexico, and had found it difficult to convince their skeptical friends that they were indeed telling the truth about the marvels of the picture world, even if they did not repeat the experience of the staid and trustworthy attorney whose home was in a remote town in the State of Durango, and who completely destroyed his reputation for veracity by a recital of but a tithe of the wonders that he had witnessed in a memorable visit to Coney Island! Some had read about the latter-day wonders of the photographer's art of the twentieth century, but to many they were as strange and unknown as the nebular hypothesis or the depths of the milky way.

Came then a "cinematografia" to far-away Cuatro Cienegas, meagerly equipped, it is true, with films ancient even then, and so damaged by poor manufacture, much travel and rough handling, as to be almost undecipherable. Came the impresario and sought eagerly for some building or hall suitable for the presentation of the novelty and for the accommodation of the crowd that he felt sure would throng to inspect the novelty. But no such place was to be had. Diligent search throughout the entire town failed to disclose a room that would in any way answer the desired purpose.

The weather being pleasant (as was the rule where rain nor snow nor hail falls for months on months in succession), the perplexed manager finally decided to make use of the only possible method for presenting his attraction, and that was in the corral at the rear of the hotel—a spacious area, surrounded by high adobe walls on three sides and the hotel on the other, from which doors opened directly. At one side were the sheds for the accommodation of vehicles and animals that preferred shelter to the open air, while on the other side were the flush walls of the hostelry. One corner was selected as the "theater," or auditorium, and ropes were stretched from stakes driven to support them in order to rail off the audience from the four-footed occupants of the corral. A canvas sheet was spread as a roof, which formed the only shelter for the onlookers. An inner line of ropes separated the lowest priced portion of the audience from the higher priced one, this being the only distinction. All enjoyed equal advantages for viewing the pictures. There were no seats, no chairs, nothing for the accommodation of the audience in this respect. All were, as a matter of fact, on an equal *footing*—master and peon. Those who desired brought chairs or boxes or what not upon which to sit, but for the most part the audience stood upon an exact equality.

It was an odd sight. A few dim lanterns and candles afforded all the illumination needed. The gentle domestic animals, made curious by the unwonted invasion of their quarters, gathered on the outskirts of the audience and actually appeared to take an active interest in the unwonted display. They preserved their equanimity to fully as great a degree as the humans who had never before witnessed such a spectacle, and were grave and decorous auditors as became the occasion. Ejaculations of surprise and delight were heard from every side and the audience gave every evidence of deep enjoyment.

Altogether it was as remarkable a spectacle of its kind as "El Gringo" had ever witnessed, and quite as much interest was aroused by the surroundings and the demeanor of a large portion of the audience as by the pictures themselves.

Since then Cienegas has been provided with a theater equal to the requirements of a larger town, but the "movie" display in the corral of the hotel, with its audience of animals in the background, always has been one of the favorite recollections of "El Gringo" in this country of unusual sights and sounds and unusual experiences.

Leisurely Manner of Transacting Business

My friend, Don Martin, as has been stated, was the local manager of a branch bank. This, as it is customary in Mexico, was located in a portion of the same building occupied as his family residence, and was just across the street from one corner of the plaza. It was necessary for me to transact considerable business of a financial nature with him. The bank was in a large room, with a space at the entrance separated by a half-height partition from the portion devoted to the safes, desks, etc. Don Martin's son Carlos was the cashier.

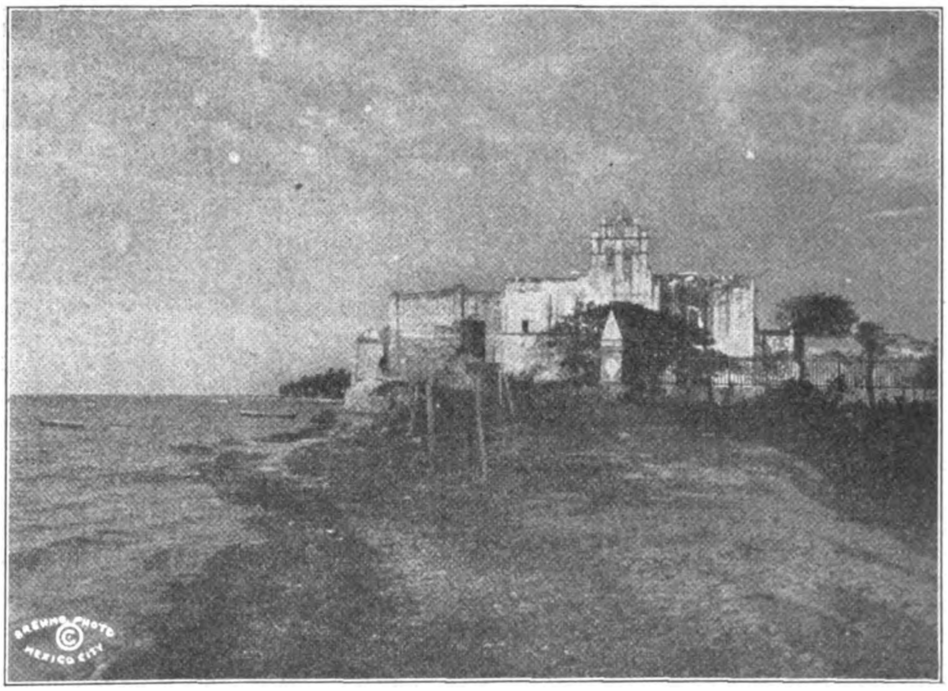
The door through the partition had a sort of combination catch that could only be operated by those who had been initiated into its use, but very early in my acquaintance I was given the "open sesame" and passed in and out as I desired without ceremony.

The method of transacting business here, as in many other portions of the Republic, was so novel and so at variance with American customs, that it is worth noting. Here is the manner in which I was accustomed to cash a draft or to send one away:

I entered the place, opened the door into the rear and passed through it. Usually four or five and sometimes more gentlemen would be there, all sitting down and talking with Don Martin, and all having business to transact in due time. Immediately upon my entrance they all arose and we shook hands and exchanged the usual daily greetings. Then, if there was no extra chair for me, a mozo would be sent to an adjoining room for one, and not infrequently one of the standing gentlemen would hand me his and they would all insist upon my sitting down, the others remaining standing until the needed extra chair was brought. None would seat himself until such time as chairs were provided for all.

Then we would chat for a while on various subjects, and finally Don Martin would ask what he could do for me. I would explain, and he would instruct his son to comply with my wishes. This would be done in full leisurely fashion, and after the completion of the transaction I would remain a while longer. Finally I would arise, and immediately all the others also arose, and I passed from one to the other, shaking hands with each in turn and wishing him a pleasant day. Not one would resume his seat until after I had left. After bidding them all adieu individually, I turned at the door and bade them farewell collectively, after which I went on my way. I had consumed perhaps half an hour, perhaps longer, in an operation that in the United States might have required one minute, possibly two or three.

But why not? That is the custom of the country—at least in the more remote districts. There is no hurried rushing into a bank, slapping a piece of paper on the counter, standing or dancing impatiently while the cashier or teller spends half a minute or a minute in verifying the signature, grabbing the money and rushing out at top speed. No! Why not imitate the Mexican custom to some extent at least? Take your time! You will get just as much business done in this fashion in the long run as if you rushed and hurried and made yourself and every one else uncomfortable by your conduct. And incidentally you will get a vastly greater amount of satisfaction and comfort out of life. When a man is seen rushing and hurrying along the street in many Mexican towns, one can hear the subdued expression among the disgusted onlookers: "There goes another tonto (crazy) American!" And who shall say this expression is not too often deserved. For the very man who does so much hurrying and rushing will loaf by the half hour after he has got over his hurry.



Old Convent of San Francisco, Coast of Campeche

An inventory made by the Treasury Department shows that there are in the Republic a total of 6854 Catholic Churches, of which twenty-four alone have been taken over for public use as schools, offices, etc., where they are not needed for religious purposes. Since 1857 these have all belonged to the Government, under the constitution adopted in that year.

.The Patent Office under supervision of the Secretary of Industry and Commerce, reports great activity in applications for patents. Among those recently granted have been several for refining and utilizing various by-products of petroleum, etc.

NO FOREIGNERS IN THE AVIATION PLANT

In an anonymous article entitled, "German Efforts in Mexico," which was published in the December issue of *World's Work*, the unqualified statement was made that there were a number of Germans employed in the aviation school and shops connected with the Mexican Department of War and Navy.

This statement is entirely without foundation.

Colonel Alberto Salinas, the chief of the Aviation Corps (and who by the way, contrary to the statements of the same anonymous writer, has *no connection whatever* with the arsenal, arms or munitions branches of the service), is authority for the statement that:

"There are no subjects of the Central Powers and none of the Allied Nations in the Aviation School or hangars."

This, however, does not mean that none of any nationality might not be employed if their services were deemed necessary. As a matter of fact, when the aviation department was first inaugurated in 1913, several foreigners were employed—including Americans, English, French, Italian and Australian. But as soon as the native young men had received the necessary instruction, the assistance of the foreigners was dispensed with, and for upwards of two years none have been employed. Native mechanics and aviators have demonstrated their ability to held their own with those of any other nationality, and the shops of the department have turned out more than fifty machines that are the equal of any in the world and which possess certain improvements invented by the native mechanics that are of great value.

Reports from the State of Sinaloa are that the extensive sugar estates in that section are in active operation, and that a large crop of this necessary is being produced.

"La Mujer Moderna"

Or, "The Modern Woman"—Mexico's Only Periodical Edited and Published by a Woman

It was two years ago when, animated with the greatest of enthusiasm, I founded my literary review, which with the name of *Mujer Moderna* (Modern Woman) has since then regularly seen the public light. Identified with the movement of liberation initiated by Constitutionalism in my country in 1913, after the bloody assassinations of President Madero and Vice-President Pino-Suarez, a revolutionary movement that acquired afterwards a political and social character by reason of the great spirit of reform that has come to favorably transform all our institutions, I have taken advantage of the brilliant historical opportunity that this epoch has presented by advocating in my review two very prominent tendencies: *The Feminist Ideal*, now of great interest all over the world, and which I have for the first time initiated in my country, and the Ideal of Revolutionary Reform, which has very deeply affected Mexican Nationality.

I feel assured that my newspaper campaign in behalf of feminism has been fertile and has opened a deep furrow in the spirit of my countrywomen, who at this actual historical moment are hastening with ardent enthusiasm to organize associations, to collaborate with the press by demonstrating their ideals of redemption and of betterment in intellectual, economical, political and moral respects, and will soon have a share in the electoral campaign in the State of Guanajuato for the designation of officials for public positions.

That State is the first Federal entity in my country where the vote has been granted in favor of Mexican women. Feminism is gaining impetus in Yucatan, where already there have been held two Congresses that have had great prominence, and there is awaited, in diverse States of the Mexican Confederation, some transcendental events that shall indicate the unmistakable triumph in behalf of the privileges of women, who in the future will have legislation that will protect them from the great injustices that they had to bear during a long period of infamous and painful tyranny.

With my labors for The Cause which I have embraced for the wellfare of those persons of my sex, I have, while following the lines of the same program, conjoined my work as a writer in a series of conferences that have been held in several of the Mexican States, and this duplication of my efforts has contributed towards the awakening of the enthusiasm of the Mexican woman regarding all those problems that concern the welfare of the weaker sex.

The program for my work can be abridged as follows:

To obtain for woman, without pretending that she should drop the labors that are inherent to the home, her intervention, slowly but progressively, in the political and administrative labors of the Government; that she be given the right to vote, so as to help, with her intelligence and her efforts, in the contests for the election of candidates for public offices; and to work so that legislation would guarantee all the rights that civilization grants to woman in all the respects in which she may be concerned, inasmuch as she, like man, is a great factor in the immense work of human evolution and progress.

My paper, since its foundation, was issued weekly, and down to a recent date it has been edited monthly, due to economic circumstances. Ten thousand copies are printed each time, which are circulated in my country, Central and South America, United States, Cuba, Spain, and other places. At the beginning, "*Mujer Moderna*" was accepted but very little, perhaps by reason of the novelty of the subjects dealt with in its columns; but at this moment there is such a demand for this publication within and outside of the country that it is sought for with interest, thereby frequently compelling an increase in the number issued.

Senorita Hermila Galindo

I will not exclude from mentioning here a circumstance that is eloquently related to the idiosyncrasy of my work. When I appeared on the stage of the press, without any assets besides my pen and my modest aptitudes, I was then as now inspired by the enthusiasm of sacrificing everything in behalf of a cause that is great as it is noble, and I should add that I have never been inspired by the mercenary spirit of speculation. It is for this reason that my literary and illustrated review with difficulty obtains the elements that are indispensable for its own support, and leaving no surplus whatsoever, nor even for its own improvement. Perhaps this circumstance will change when my country finds itself in complete peace, and the era of national reconstruction initiated; for it is well known from what history teaches us, that after the great revolutions that seem to delay to a certain degree the march of progress, there comes a period of marvelous activity and unusual enthusiasm, that requires many brains and many strong arms for the colossal work of collective improvement.

At the beginning of my newspaper work, almost alone, I filled the columns of my paper; but as the time went by, either due to the enthusiasm that my task has awakened, or to the unexpected proportions that are being attained every day by the feminist ideal, the fact is that there now come to me from diverse parts of the country, as well as from the exterior, so many important scientific and literary collaborations from intelligent students, inspired poets, notable women writers, and distinguished men of letters, all of which enable me to give to "*Mujer Moderna*" an aspect that is varied as it is interesting and instructive.

Now that the era of national reconstruction is being initiated in my country, I have the purpose of making my work broader, and these are the moments when I am organizing an editorial enterprise that, besides my review, would give me the facilities for creating a modern daily, and thus to make use of a broad field of action for the diffusion of the thought of reform. As I indicated at the beginning, two things have been the fundamental tendencies that have inspired me: feminism and reform.

Such is the synthesis of what I can say regarding my review and its purposes, in the small space that I can utilize for this simple article.

Mexico, Dec. 19, 1917.

Hermila Galindo.

STRINGENT PROHIBITORY DECREE

General Plutarco Elias Calles, Governor of the State of Sonora, has notified the public that those who violate the law strictly forbidding the sale of intoxicating liquors of any description, will suffer the death penalty. The decree, which has been served upon every municipal Presidente in the State, says:

"The State of Sonora is in a condition of war on account of the rebellion of the Yaquis. For the purpose of avoiding the injuries that are always caused by the sale of liquors, I have given orders to the chief officials of the army to execute all those individuals who engage themselves in the sale of intoxicating beverages. You will please proceed immediately to collect all the liquor that is in your municipality and destroy it at once, also conveying to the knowledge of the public this measure."

New export duties on the following products have been established in the equivalent of American gold: Chicle gum, 5¾ cents per pound; guayule rubber, 1.38 cents per pound: fresh hides, 6.44 cents per pound; dry hides, 9.43 cents per pound; goatskins, 20¼ cents, and deerskins, 14½ cents per pound.

Railroad service between Monterrey and Torreon, which had been interrupted on account of the recent floods in that region, has been resumed. Many repairs were needed owing to the washing out of tracks and bridges.

Facts About The Food Situation

Corn and Other Articles Obtained From the United States—Amelioration of Conditions

ON December 15th it was announced in the press of Mexico City that it was expected one hundred carloads of corn from the United States would arrive in that city, being a portion of the large amount of that cereal that had been purchased in that country by the special commission sent thither some time ago for that purpose. It was also stated that arrangements had been made for the daily receipt of twenty carloads of corn that had been contracted for and that would be shipped via Laredo regularly for several months, or until the new crop can be harvested and the temporary scarcity in certain portions only of the Republic be alleviated.

The Commission which consummated the purchase and arranged for the shipment of this corn from the United States to Mexico reported in a public statement that they had received every courtesy and assistance from the American officials everywhere, and had been given the fullest and freest permission to secure and export not only corn but other food articles or prime necessity to any extent needed. No limit had been been placed upon the amount needed to alleviate temporary conditions. They had also been able to arrange for the transportation of these articles in any quantity in foreign cars and their delivery at their ultimate destination without the necessity of transshipment at the border. Having thus secured the cooperation of the Government of the United States, they had been able to secure large quantities of corn, etc., in the market at moderate prices.

The committee concluded its report by denying certain published statements to the contrary which it declared were apt to cause alarm and prejudice among the people. (Such reports without foundation were also published in the United States, though the Commission did not specifically refer thereto.—Ed.)

In this connection, it is of interest to note that a conference was recently held on the international bridge at Laredo between Governor Niceforo Zambrano of the State of Nuevo Leon, and Governor Hobby of Texas, in which the latter official stated that his State possessed an abundance of corn sufficient to supply all the needs of Mexico, and that he would be glad to furnish any amount that might be required. Texas could also supply flour and sugar in moderate quantity, but of corn there was an abundance.

An offer has been received from Venezuela to supply large quantities of corn from the abundant crop of that country, while the prices quoted are much lower than those prevailing in other corn-producing portions of the world. Active preparations are under way for the sending of a number of shiploads of corn from different Venezuelan ports to Mexico.

The governments of several States have deemed it necessary to prohibit the exportation of corn from their boundaries, as the entire crop is needed for home consumption. Other States with abundant crops are encouraging exportation to the limit of the facilities of transportation.

The reports of suffering from hunger are without substantial foundation. The grain that is being imported is being distributed wherever needed and sold at the lowest prices—much lower than those demanded by the dealers. The Government has the situation entirely in hand.

Mahogany Logs for Export, Campeche Coast

Later Reports

Reports in the Mexico City press as well as from other portions of the Republic, demonstrate the constant amelioration of the scarcity of grain in some portions of the Republic through wholesale purchases made in the United States, as well as from other sources, notably the surplus crops in certain of the States.

The Subsistence Committee, which was appointed to handle the matter, announced early in January that a great part of the corn that had been bought by it in the United States would soon arrive in the city. The committee reported a continuance of the purchase of corn in the United States by its agents, and an increase in the number of cars sent to Mexico with this cereal.

It was stated in Vera Cruz that large amounts of flour, condensed milk, etc., had arrived in that city from the United States, and that an entire steamer load of supplies was due from the same place.

Torreon, the metropolis of the Laguna district of Coahuila and Durango, reported confirmation of permission to receive corn from the United States by way of Laredo, and also that proper arrangements had been made for the distribution of the grain where needed.

Several foreign companies employing large numbers of men have applied to the American government to permit them to import corn into Mexico for the use of their employes. This is in addition to the exclusive permission given to the Committee on Subsistence to bring articles of prime necessity into the country—chief among which is corn.

The Committee on Subsistence also announces that it will convey to Mexico City various other articles of prime necessity as well as corn, such as beans, lard, flour, etc., and that the only obstacle in the way of bringing in abundant supplies is the lack of sufficient water transportation on account of the war. Steps are being taken to remedy this as far as possible, the Government commandeering vessels when needed, as is done by other countries. A large quantity of corn is now available at the port of Manzanillo, on the west coast, and will be taken to other points as soon as possible.

The Government of the United States has issued orders that cars laden with corn bought by the Mexican national authorities, shall be passed immediately across the border and turned over to the National Railway lines, which will expedite them to their destination. They will be sent to those portions of the country where there is a temporary shortage of crops. A portion will be delivered in the capital city, where the Committee of Subsistence has established a number of stations for the sale of the grain to the poor at cost price.

The Henequen Commission of Yucatan has arranged to secure large supplies of food of various kinds from the United States and shipments are now being received. They comprise a variety of necessary food products.

Export Taxes on Minerals

Rates Collected on Gold, Silver, Copper and Other Minerals—Modifications Under Consideration

UNDER decree of November 30, 1917, the export tax on various metals produced in Mexico was established as follows for the month of December:

Gold concentrates—$93.33 Mexican gold per kilo, or the equivalent of $21.46 American gold per pound.

Silver in bars or ingots—$2.803 Mexican gold per kilo, or about 64½ cents per pound in American gold.

Silver in ore or concentrates—$3.924 Mexican gold per kilo, or 90¼ cents per pound American gold.

Copper in bars or ingots—5.181 centavos Mexican gold per kilo, or the equivalent of a trifle less than one and one-fifth cents American gold per pound.

Copper in concentrates—6.217 centavos Mexican gold per kilo, or the equivalent of one and 42/100 cents American gold per pound.

Lead in bars, ingots or concentrates—from one-sixth to one-eighth of one cent American gold per pound.

The export duty on tin, tungsten, antimony, grafite and quicksilver is in correspondingly low proportion.

Especial attention is called to the foregoing, since it has been stated that a tax of *eleven and one-half cents American gold per pound* had been levied on copper, and this was given as alleged proof that the export taxes were prohibitory. It will be noted that the actual tax on copper is but one and one-fifth cents per pound.

The Rates for January

Under date of December 31, 1917, a decree was issued fixing the rates of export duties upon minerals and metals for the month of January, 1918, in accordance with the regulation requiring such announcement monthly. For the present month these rates are as follows:

Gold in mineral or concentrates—The equivalent of $21.46 American gold per pound.

Silver in bars or ingots—The equivalent of 63 1/5 cents American gold per pound.

Silver in mineral or concentrates—The equivalent of 88 2/3 cents American gold per pound.

Copper in bars or ingots—The equivalent of one and one-fifth cents American gold per pound.

Copper in mineral or concentrates—The equivalent of one and forty-two hundredths cents American gold per pound.

EXPORT TAX ON METALS—NO PRESENT CHANGE

Mexican Ambassador Bonillas is in receipt of the following telegrams from Mexico City:

MEXICO CITY, January 4, 1918.

Sr. Ing. Ygnacio Bonillas, Ambassador of Mexico, Washington, D. C.:

Concerning your cablegram of January 3d: The decree of May 1, 1916, provided that metals for exportation produced in the Republic or proceeding from foreign countries should be taxed for gold and silver at ten per cent ad valorem, and other metals at the rate of five per cent ad valorem. This tax was modified by decree of December 8, 1916, in the following manner: Gold and silver in bars, five per cent ad valorem; minerals of silver and gold, seven per cent; copper in bars, seven per cent; copper in minerals, six per cent; other minerals, three per cent of the value of the metal.

Yaqui Chief Urbalejo and Family

Yaqui Fighters of Both Sexes

These rates were to be in force down to December 31, 1917. This date having passed, the decree of May 1, 1916, has again come into force.

The Department of the Treasury, in connection with the Department of Industry and Commerce, and in conjunction with representative mining men, is studying a modification of the taxes upon mining claims and upon the production. The result will be communicated to you opportunely.

R. NIETO,
Sub-Secretary of the Department of Imposts

FURTHER MODIFICATION

MEXICO CITY, January 5, 1918.

Sr. Ing. Ygnacio Bonillas, Ambassador of Mexico, Washington, D. C.:

With reference to my cablegram of yesterday relative to the imposts upon metals, permit me to state that pending the study by this Department and the representation of miners, for the present month of January the quotas (of taxation) have been fixed upon the same percentage that was established by the decree and circular of December 8, 1916.

R. NIETO.

THE PETROLEUM SITUATION

The total exports of petroleum from the ports of Tampico and Tuxpam for the months of October and November amounted to over six million barrels, upon which there were collected export taxes to the amount of one million pesos Mexican gold, or half a million dollars in American gold. Besides the amount exported, constantly increasing quantities are used on the railway and steamer lines, in industrial establishments and elsewhere.

Official announcement is made that the leading foreign petroleum companies have expressed their utmost confidence in the ability of the Government to afford them every protection and that they place no faith in reports to the contrary. They are also evincing their trust by extending their operations and making new investments constantly.

A branch of the Treasury Department has been established in the city of Torreon for the purpose of handling the business of that department arising in the States of Durango, Zacatecas and Coahuila.

The sugar growers of the State of Chiapas announce that they have produced a very large crop thereof, and that all that is needed is transportation facilities in order to ship it to portions of the Republic where there is a shortage. This will materially reduce the prices demanded by dealers in certain localities where supplies are scanty.

The Mexican delegation to the Latin-American Congress in Buenos Aires consisted of Messrs. Luis Cabrera, President; Gerzayn Ugarte, Delegate; General Federico Montes, Military Attache; and Congressmen Enrique Parra and Flavio Perez Gazga, Secretaries, with Ernesto Hidalgo as press representative. They sailed December 16th from New York on a Lamport & Holt boat to Buenos Aires.

A Model Mining Camp

Conducted by Foreigners and Operated Steadily Throughout the Entire Revolution—A Notable Example

IN this issue of THE MEXICAN REVIEW are given illustrations showing scenes on the property of the Amparo Mining Company at Etzatlan, in the State of Jalisco. This place is west of the city of Guadalajara and is on the Pacific slope of the Sierra Nevada. It is near Lake Magdalena and is on the railroad connecting Guadalajara with San Marcos, at which point the stage road running up the coast is encountered.

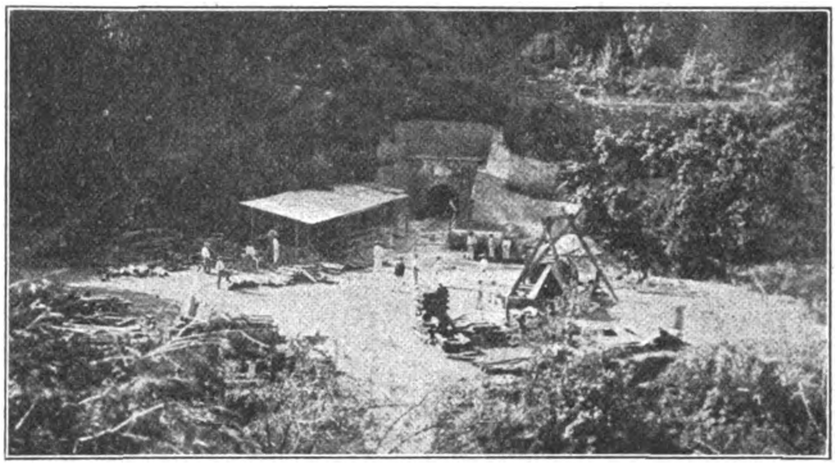
The plant and mines are extensive, and some 5,500 people reside in and about the village who are very largely dependent for their livelihood upon the employment thus afforded. The employes are all paid good wages, while the owners of the mines have provided school, church, moving picture theater, etc., for their benefit and amusement. A competent physician is also provided, and medicines as well as advice and service are all free of cost. There have never been any strikes or other troubles in this camp, and a small force of cavalry is maintained at the expense of the company to prevent molestation from any source.

Under the wise and sympathetic management of Mr. James H. Howard, assisted by his brother, Mr. William Howard and Mr. Arthur Anderson, all Englishmen, this camp is kept in constant operation, in perfect order and security. The mine is producing gold, silver and copper in remunerative amounts, and the works and plant are extensive and well equipped. It is a notable instance of the possibilities of Mexico, and is one of many that might be cited in disproof of the popular belief that the mining industry of Mexico has been "ruined" by the Revolution.

Headquarters Amparo Mining Co., Etzatlan, Jalisco

REDUCTION OF MINING TAXES

Notice has been given that in order to induce the resumption of operations on the part of all the mining concerns in the country, a reduction in the taxes levied upon the industry has been determined upon. This reduction will apply both to the mineral claims and also to the export duties upon the metal produced. A special commission has been appointed under the supervision of the Treasury Department and the Department of Industry and Commerce, which will consider the matter and draw up a report which will then be submitted to the President for his approval, and put into immediate effect. It is promised that this report shall be forthcoming at an early date.



Entrance to Mine, Etzatlan, Jalisco

LANDS RETURNED TO THE GOVERNMENT

The immense area of 35,051,092 acres of land situated in Lower California, Sonora, Yucatan, Chiapas, Tabasco, Campeche and Chihuahua, has been returned to the Government through the failure of those who had obtained concessions for their exploitation to comply with the terms of their contracts. Among the parties affected are Adolph Bulle and Louis Huller & Co., as well as several land development companies. These lands are now available for those who are willing to meet the requirements of the laws governing such matters.

The opening of important mines in the State of Mexico is announced, thereby giving employment to several thousand men who have found it difficult to gain a livelihood during the suspension of operations.

Official reports from the State of Chihuahua declare that notwithstanding bandit activities in isolated sections, the greater portion of the mines of that section are now in operation and are producing satisfactory results.

The mint of Mexico City continues to turn out gold and silver coins to its full capacity, a sufficient supply of bullion having been assured to prevent its closing down from any cause.

Jas. H. Howard, Manager, Amparo Mining Co.

Collegiate Investigation

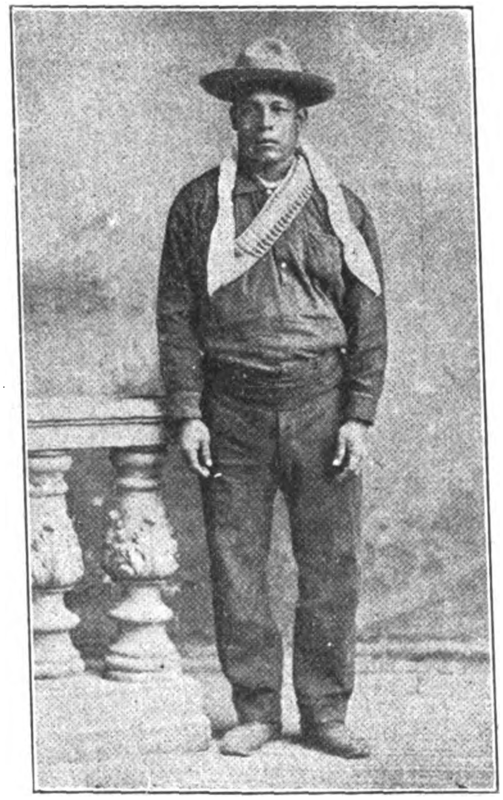
Proposed to Be Made Into Conditions in Mexico—Personnel of the Investigating Body

It is authoritatively announced that the collegiate investigation of conditions in Mexico which was announced some time since has been undertaken by a Board of which G. W. Scott is chairman. While the facilities of the University of California are being utilized by the commission, President Wheeler expressly disclaims any responsibility therefor, declaring that "the undertaking is independent of the University." The movement is financed by Mr. E. A. Doheny, who is extensively engaged in the oil business both in Mexico and in the United States. The following statement has been made in this connection:

"The research now being conducted in the Bancroft Library of the California State University is directed to the preparation of a report on institutions of Mexico. The Bancroft Library contains a great deal in the way of Mexican documents and reports. No plans have been made whatever for the group of scholars to go to Mexico as a group, and it is most unlikely that such a trip will be undertaken. It is quite possible, however, that particular members may desire to go, especially if they should find that some of the documents in their special subject are not to be found in this country. Mr. Doheny's contribution is the only one that has been made and this was given absolutely without any strings attached to it."

The Personnel of the Group

Prof. Bernard Moses, Member of the First Philippine Commission; Dr. E. C. Moore, President State Normal School, Los Angeles; Richard T. Ely, Professor of Economics, University of Wisconsin; Dr. T. Jesse Jones, Educational Director, Phelps-Stokes Funds; Elwood Mead, Professor of Rural Institutions, University of California; Herbert E. Bolton, Curator of the Bancroft Library, University of California; Dr. H. E. Bard, formerly Advisor of Ministry of Instruction in Peru; W. L. Blair, formerly editor *Pasadena Star;* E. B. Christie, formerly of the Bureau of Sciences in the Philippines; Robert Cleland, Professor of Latin-American History, Occidental College, Los Angeles; Dr. George Winfield Scott, formerly Professor of International Law at Columbia University; W. W. Cumberland, Professor of Agriculture Economics, University of Minnesota; Julius Klein, Professor of Latin-American History, Harvard University; Theodore Macklin, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Kansas; Percy A. Martin, Professor of Latin-American History, Stanford University; Dr. Jessica B. Peixotto, Professor of Social Economics, University of California; C. M. Pepper, Specialist in Latin-American Commerce; F. W. Powell, formerly research specialist in transportation for the Carnegie Institution, with Bureau of Municipal Research; Frank Robert, Professor of Mining, University of California; C. L. Jones, Professor of Political Science, University of Wisconsin; H. I. Priestey, Professor of Latin-American Institutions, University of California; Dr. J. A. Robertson, formerly Chief, Latin-American Division United States Department of Commerce; Dr. A. N. Young, Professor of Finance, Princeton University.



Yaqui Chief Mori

BOUND VOLUMES OF "THE REVIEW"

Bound copies of the first volume of The Review may be had by remitting $2.00 therefor to this office. For $2.50 the bound volume will be sent postpaid, and a year's subscription to The Review in addition.

Reports are published in the Mexico City press of the discovery of petroleum measures in the southern portion of the Territory of Lower California, on the shores of both the Gulf and the Pacific ocean in the vicinity of La Paz. The quality of the oil is said to be of the first class, and it is expected steps will be taken to develop the deposits.

Under instructions of the Treasury Department, a minute inventory is being made of all ecclesiastical property of whatever nature throughout the Republic. Since the adoption of the Constitution of 1857 under President Benito Juarez this has all belonged to the Government, but there was much laxness in the enforcement of the laws, and this is now being remedied.

HEAVY INCREASE IN THE LIQUOR TAX

By virtue of the authority conferred upon the Finance Department by the National Congress, the following material additions have been made to the tax on the sale of alcoholic beverages of all kinds:

"Art. 1. After January 1, 1918, taxes on first hand sales of alcohols, wines and beers, shall be paid by buyers according to the following schedule:

"A.—On first hand sales of alcohols, liquors, tequila, mezcal and other native drinks obtained by distilling, 50 per cent on the selling price.

"B.—On first hand sales of wines of national product, 25 per cent on the selling price.

"C.—On first hand sales of native beers, 16 per cent on the selling price. Both of these operations and those mentioned in the preceding paragraphs have no relation with the tax imposed under fraction 28 of the internal revenue law (Tarifa de la Ley del Tinbre).

"D.—Imported alcohols, liquors, alcoholic drinks and wines must pay on entering the country 70 per cent import tax.

"E.—Imported beers must pay 80 per cent import tax on entering the country.

"Art. 2. Said tax may be paid in cash should the manufacturer so choose by previously laying his claim before the Department of Finance, which can approve or reject:

"Art. 3. The text decreed on April 15th of this year, relative to quotas assigned as stamp taxes on first hand liquors, alcoholic drinks and beers, is abolished.

"Transitory—Only Article—After January 1st purchasers will pay the tax on sales checks according to the quotas established by this decree."

The revenue that will be derived from this tax will be very large and will go far toward putting an end to the deficit and creating a surplus over the present expenses of the Government.

IF WE ONLY KNEW

If we knew the cares and trials,
Knew the efforts all in vain,
And the bitter disappointment,
Understood the loss and gain—
Would the grim eternal roughness
Seem—I wonder—just the same;
Should we help where now we hinder
Should we pity where we blame?

Ah! we judge each other harshly,
Knowing not life's hidden force—
Knowing not the fount of action
Is less turbid at its source;
Seeing not amid the evil
All the golden grains of good;
And we'd love each other better
If we only understood.

Could we judge all deeds by motives
That surround each other's lives,
See the naked heart and spirit,
Know what spur the action gives
Often we would find it better
Just to judge all actions good;
We would love each other better
If we only understood.

—*Rudyard Kipling.*

Mexico Progresses

A Prominent and Well-known American Observer Summarizes the Results of a Recent Visit to That Country

By formal acknowledgment of his election as President of Mexico, the United States has now definitely accepted Mr. Carranza as the legal as well as the actual head of the Mexican Government. The Revolution is therefore officially concluded, and Mexico is welcomed back into the circle of governed nations.

And now that Mexico is back there is less disposition to find fault with her prolonged subversion of law and order to the business of internal warfare. Revolutions are better understood by America than before Russia started out to establish a democracy. Americans, even those despoiled of property in Mexico, are now inclined to ignore the past and to look forward to a reconstructed Mexico which will permit their gradual recoupment of losses. In the meantime, obstacles to industrial and commercial activity are lessening, though substantial ones remain.

The present crux of the Mexican problem is financial. The country cannot survive without an effective, aggressive government, and the government cannot survive without funds. Only a convincing demonstration by the government of its security and permanence will invite confidence enough to warrant effort for substantial financing.

The government is therefore just now going through the period of demonstration. It is living on its current revenues and on incidental internal loans in small amounts that are variously obtained. But in the meantime a deficit is piling up. Revenues are considerably greater than before the Revolution, but so are expenditures. The principal expenditure is for the army establishment, totaling more than all other outlays combined. The army is partly needed to maintain internal order, and the rest must be kept on government pay until its officers and soldiers can be absorbed back into industrial or other civic activity.

Industrial activity, moreover, is the only certain remedy for banditry and constitutes, therefore, the immediate, urgent need of Mexico. Happily, business is resuming. Mine and oil properties are not left idle where it is possible physically or financially to operate them, though many mines are still idle whose operation would be of immeasurable advantage to the country. The present state of Mexico is a state of transition with a growing brightening in the prospect of a successful outcome.

Meanwhile, Mr. Carranza has organized a government and has taken firm hold on the administration of public business. He is a man of pre-eminent patience and perseverance, and in consequence of these traits finds himself today greatly more secure and nearer to his goal than he has ever been since first he set out to overthrow the usurper Huerta.

The shibboleth of the Carranzista revolt was "The Constitution and Reform." To restore constitutional government was the war cry of the campaign against Huerta. To achieve reforms was the promise of ultimate benefit which Carranza held out to his followers. The constitutional government has been established under a new constitution. The reforms are in process of accomplishment, in so far as the immediate business of keeping the government in operation permits attention to them. The constitution itself radically altered the status of business and labor and made fundamental changes in religious and educational policy. The status of employed labor is greatly improved wherever there is the power to enforce constitutional and legal provisions respecting hours of work, compensation for injury, child labor and even participation in profits. Education is now a public instead of a church responsibility, and schools are in increasing operation.

Yaqui Private Soldier

Six years ago, discovering itself stagnant and starving in the midst of the glitter and prosperity of the Diaz régime, Mexico came to the conclusion that its problems were fundamentally economic. Years of proclaimed political liberty had not meant freedom. The Mexican revolution has accordingly been prompted by economic motives first announced by Madero, but subsequently sustained by the Carranza party of the Constitution and Reform. The program of the Revolution finally expressed itself in the new constitution adopted last winter and sums up as follows: The economic development of the country has been almost exclusively in the hands of foreigners. Accordingly, foreigners are to be brought under the immediate control of Mexican laws and removed from localities where they might furnish excuse for foreign intervention, namely, the border and the immediate sea coast. Large mining holdings are to be restricted to imperative needs for actual development by a progressive tax on mine claims. Large landed estates are to be discouraged by prohibiting corporate ownership of landed properties and by a program of large estate subdivision through the exercise of the powers of eminent domain.

Most important is the attempt to divert the greatest of all recently discovered bodies of Mexican natural wealth into channels assuring the nation of participation in the profits of oil production by other means than taxes. Oil deposits are declared to be the property of the nation, to be developed only on payment of royalties to the government, instead of as before to the owners of the land covering the oil deposits.

All this is an expression of protest against the gradual expropriation of Mexican assets to foreign capital and an ardent effort to capitalize to general national advantage the enterprise of foreigners attracted by the natural riches of the Republic.

Industry, almost wholly controlled by foreign capital and developed by foreign initiative, does not take kindly to these proposals and is steadfastly resisting their execution. This opposition and the necessities of the Republic will probably lead to some compromises in policy. At all events, future Mexican industrial profits will be tempered by government taxation, and future foreign development will be subjected to more restrictive requirements than obtained before the Revolution.

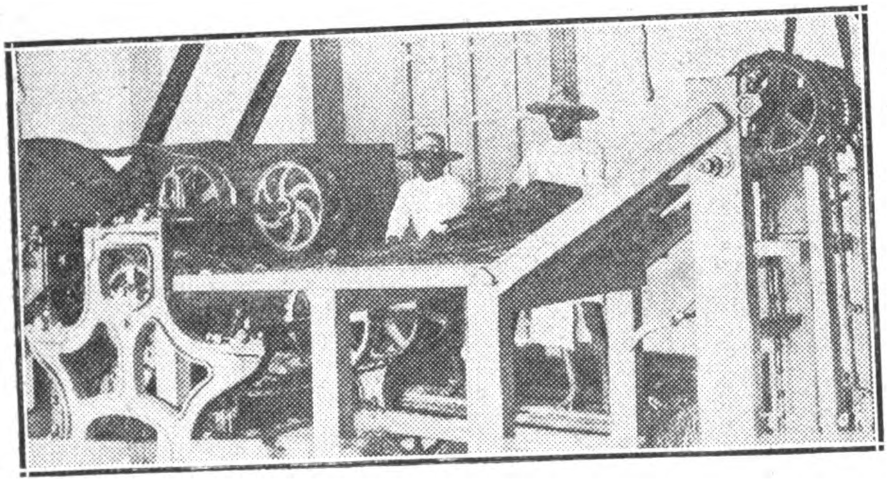
The suppression or restriction of foreign enterprise has not as yet led to a quickening of native initiative in business. Those Mexicans who are at all concerned about business are not inclined to large scale undertakings and find it difficult to obtain capital for those they seek to promote. Technical and business training, already in part instituted by the government before the Revolution and now continued, must create a class of business men before much native development is likely to take place. Foreign enterprise is, on the other hand, more inclined to regard with composure government participation in industry. This more tolerant attitude, together with Mexican appreciation of the importance of coöperation with Mexican companies financed abroad will, many think, lead to the formulation of working relationships of mutual advantage.

In the meantime the government under Mr. Carranza's quiet leadership is putting its own house in order. The government is utilizing American expert assistance in its work of financial and administrative reconstruction. The President has created an official commission of leading government officials to coordinate effort along lines of reconstruction and to utilize Mexican and outside coöperation to build up an adequate administrative mechanism. Disinterested observers of present-day Mexican tendencies note a positive and steadfast trend towards order and feasible policies The experience gained by the President and his immediate advisers in attempting to reconstruct Mexican political and social life by mandate and law has led them to recognize the necessity of dealing first with fundamentals.

A credit system must be established to take the place of the old banking system now wholly destroyed. Expert attention is being directed to this end, and an interesting attempt is on foot to raise the necessary capital for the enterprise by popular subscription. Currency now cleansed of fiat money but inadequate in volume for the needs of business needs reorganization. And that problem also is receiving expert attention. Railroads must be restored to effective operation to make the quickening of business possible. Sincere effort is on foot to accomplish this imperative result.

In the meantime banditry is generally held in check, with outcroppings here and there where soldiers are not promptly paid, the corn supply deficient, or work and wages wanting. Mexico, in a word, is in a less chaotic condition today than Russia seems to be. The question of her ultimate righting depends on the capacity and stamina of the comparatively few men in the nation who are capable of leadership. Sympathetic coöperation of foreign interests and governments and sustained effort by the Mexicans themselves will probably bring success. At all events, the country is now on the up-grade and this is the time to lend a hand.

Henry Bruere *in New Republic.*



Machine Separating Henequen Fiber From the Leaves in Yucatan

GENERAL CALLES EMPHATICALLY DENIES A PRESS CANARD

On January 4th the Mexican News Bureau sent General Plutarco Elias Calles, Governor of Sonora, the following message:

Washington, January 4, 1918.

General Plutarco Elias Calles, Governor of the State of Sonora, Hermosillo, Mexico:

The press publishes the statement that a camp of four hundred renegades of various nationalities from the United States has been established near Guaymas; that they are in the pay of Germans, and that they are conspiring upon a wholesale scale against the oil, mineral and other industries, with the object of embroiling Mexico with this country. Please wire facts regarding matter.

Mexican News Bureau.

To this message the following reply has been received:

Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.
January 6, 1918.

Mexican News Bureau, Washington, D. C.:
Washington, D. C.

The notices published in the press referring to the existence of groups of various antagonistic nationalities in the vicinity of Guaymas, as telegraphed by you, are absolutely false. You may deny them in a categorical manner.

Plutarco Elias Calles,
Governor of the State of Sonora.

FUTURE RELATIONS WITH MEXICO

Commenting upon an article by "American Jurist" in a recent issue of the New York *Times* regarding future relations between the United States and Mexico, Mr. George McPherson Hunter, the well-known author, says:

Many Americans and Mexicans will dissent from the conclusions of "American Jurist" about Mexico.

The duty of the United States is not to "undertake the pacification and reorganization of Mexico." Such views sound strangely Prussian. The first duty of the United States is to see that her citizens keep the laws, and let Mexico alone to reorganize her own life.

The implication that it is the duty of this country to oversee, play "big brother" or general uplifter toward Mexico is treated with scorn across the Rio Grande. "What do you Mexicans want, anyway?" I asked one of their officials. "To be left alone to manage our own affairs," he replied.

Contrasting Cuba and Mexico is unfair. Cuba is an island, and was a colony of Spain. Mexico is a republic on the mainland, and a sovereign state. An overt act was committed by some one hostile to the United States in Cuban waters, thus precipitating war, and Cuban independence followed. Nothing like that has happened. Border raids are lawless, sordid affairs, as remote from the Mexican question as New York is from Texas.

After the war is closed America must seek to establish better relations with Mexico, banish the "big brother" idea, forsake the patronizing, "reorganizing and pacification spirit," and establish an equitable and an ethical friendship with Mexico. Our influence on this hemisphere depends on our ability to establish confidence and mutual respect with Mexico.

Twenty-five years' knowledge of South American countries and several years' residence convince me that interference in Mexico after the war and any idea of "pacifying or organizing Mexico" would unite Latin America against the United States. As one of the republics in America she would have great influence; as self-constituted censor or guardian all of them would be united against her. Mexico prefers being mistress in her own unruly, untidy house rather than being a daughter in the well-kept home of Uncle Sam.

FOOD PRICES IN MEXICO CITY

In view of recently published sensational and erroneous statements regarding the food situation in Mexico City and elsewhere, the following prices at which food is sold at retail in the city markets, as published in the regular daily reports of the press, are of interest. It should be remarked that prices in the city are always higher than elsewhere in the Republic.

Rice, 9½ to 13 cents per lb.

White sugar, 14.95 to 22½ cents per lb.

Native brown sugar, 13 1/5 to 14¼ cents per lb.

Dried meat, 20 to 23 cents per lb.

Barley, 3⅞ cents per lb.

Garbanzas (chick peas), 6.9 to 8¼ cents per lb.

American flour, 6 1/3 cents per lb.

Native flour, 6 cents per lb.

Corn, 4.9 cents per lb.

Potatoes, 4¼ to 5¼ cents per lb.

Lard, 48 cents per lb.

Coffee (green), 8¼ to 9 1/5 cents per lb.

Beans, 9½ to 11½ cents per lb.

The prices quoted are calculated on the regular exchange basis of two pesos Mexican gold for one dollar American gold.

The prices of the staples of beans, corn, rice, and flour will compare very favorably with rates in any American city.

REPORTED PETROLEUM DISCOVERY IN DURANGO

A report has been received from authentic sources of the discovery of what are believed to be valuable petroleum deposits in the State of Durango. The exact location is in the District of Mapimi, in the Northeastern portion of the State named. Workmen employed on a ranch owned by a Canadian, found the water flowing down a river heavily impregnated with oil. The owner at once began explorations, and work is reported to be well under way, with the belief that the section noted will be found to be underlaid with petroleum in valuable amounts. It is not generally known that indications of petroleum have been found in various portions of the States of Coahuila, Chihuahua, etc., although no systematic exploration has been made, the evidences found having been merely collateral to work of another character.

A comprehensive project for the protection of the national wealth of natural resources has been prepared under the direction of Secretary Pastor Rouaix of the Department of Fomento, and will shortly be presented to the President and the Chamber of Deputies for ratification or amendment.

One hundred thousand dollars (American gold) has been expended by the National Government in the purchase of tractors for the use of farmers in the Laguna district of the States of Coahuila and Durango, in order to stimulate agriculture and increase production in that fertile region.

Tehuantepec Railway and Ports

Terms by Which They Revert to the National Government From Control by the Lord Cowdray Interests

THE Congress of the United States of Mexico decrees:

ARTICLE I.—The Executive Power is authorized to make with S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) the contracts or agreements which may be necessary to dissolve the corporation named the "Tehuantepec National Railway Company," rescinding for this purpose the contracts of May 16, 1902, May 20, 1904, and of May 7, 1908, approved by the respective decrees of June 4, 1902, May 31, 1904, and June 1, 1906.

ARTICLE II.—The contract of restitution and the complementary agreements which dissolve the corporation shall be subject to the following terms:

1. The National Railway of Tehuantepec and the ports of Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos shall be restored to the Nation in full title, with all dependencies, as defined specifically in the contracts of May 16, 1902, May 20, 1904, and May 7, 1908.
2. S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) shall clearly renounce all rights conferred in the contracts of May 16, 1902, and its amendments; of May 20, 1904, and May 7, 1908, transferring them to the administration and credit of the National Railway of Tehuantepec and of the ports of Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos.
3. In accordance with the precepts of the contract of May 16, 1902, and the amendments of May 20, 1904, and May 7, 1908, any loans contracted by the Company, in the form of bonds or any other character of emission, such as debts assumed according to the stipulations of the referred to contract, shall constitute a direct obligation and responsibility on the part of the Government. In conformity with the before-mentioned contracts, all contracts made and obligations borne by the Company shall be carried out by the Government.
4. The paid-in capital stock and interest thereon shall be paid to S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) and to the Government in conformity with the before-mentioned contracts.
5. The assets existing after payment of the capital and interest on the terms set forth in the preceding paragraph shall be distributed between the Government of the Republic and S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) in proportion fixed in the respective contracts.
6. The amount which the Government shall receive for the utilities and from the realization of securities immediately negotiable, after the reimbursement referred to in the preceding paragraph is made, shall not be less than $15,000,000 national gold.
7. The amount in cash or in securities immediately negotiable shall, on notice from the Government, be acknowledged by S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) as complete reimbursement for damages caused by political disorders and by attachment of the property of the National Railway of Tehuantepec and of the ports of Salina Cruz and Coatzacoalcos, and shall in no case exceed $3,000,000.
8. As compensation to S. Pearson & Sons (Ltd.) for renouncing their rights to operate and develop the railroad and ports mentioned, and pursuantly the profits which belonged to them by reason of the contracts abrogated, the Government shall pay a sum which shall not exceed $4,000,000 in special bonds issued by the Department of Finance, bearing interest not greater than 5 per cent annually and redeemable within 36 years.

ARTICLE III.—The Executive shall account to the Congress of the Union on the use that may be made of the faculties conceded him through the present law.

Mexico, 18th of December, 1917.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

The Subsecretary of Finance, R. NIETO.

OFFICIAL DENIAL OF REPORTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN REGARDING A NAVAL BASE IN MEXICO

Under the heading "Mexico Would Grant Japan Naval Bases," a statement appeared recently in the press of this city that the Government of President Carranza in conjunction with Governor Cantu, of Lower California, had offered Japan a naval base in Mexico in return for Japanese financial and political support.

This charge was at once brought to the attention of President Carranza, and the following reply has been received from him:

MEXICO CITY, January 30, 1918.

To ING. YGNACIO BONILLAS, *Mexican Ambassador, Washington:*

Replying to your cable of yesterday, relative to the statement published in the *Washington Herald*, you may declare the aforesaid assertions to be false.

(Signed) THE PRESIDENT—V. CARRANZA.

GOVERNOR CANTU'S DENIAL

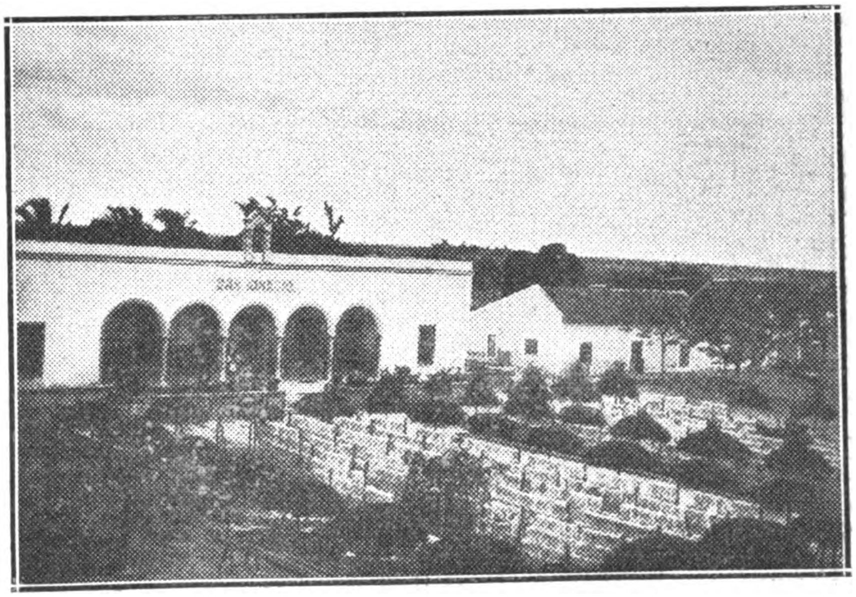
In response to a telegram to Governor Cantu, citing the publication, that official wires as follows:

CALEXICO, CAL., January 30, 1918.

To ING. YGNACIO BONILLAS, *Ambassador of Mexico, Washington:*

Referring to your message regarding the statement published in the *Washington Herald:* This matter had not come to my attention, but it is absolutely false, and I recommend that you deny it as a falsehood in every detail. Other newspapers in the western portion of the United States, with customary yellowness, give false statements regarding the independence of Lower California. The commencement of these falsehoods during the present month has been through the Associated Press. In my judgment this is owing to the infamous labors of the enemies of our Government.

(Signed) THE GOVERNOR—E. CANTU.



Drying Henequen Fiber After Separation

PETROLEUM TAXES FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

The Secretary of the Treasury has given notice that for the months of January and February the petroleum valuations and taxes will be as follows in Mexican gold:

Combustible petroleum of 0.91 density, $10.50 per ton; crude petroleum of 0.91 density, $13.50 per ton; petroleum of over 0.97 density, $5.50 per ton; gas oil, $10.50 per ton. The tax rate is ten per cent upon these valuations, and reduced to American gold it is 52½ cents per ton on the first grade, 67½ cents on the second grade, 27½ cents upon the third grade, and 52½ cents upon the fourth grade. The rate per barrel is 7½, 9½, 4 and 7½ cents respectively. The average rate is therefore within a fraction of 7 cents per barrel. Mexican petroleum is quoted in the American markets at present at $1.10 per barrel and upward, Galveston delivery.

The production of sugar in the State of Vera Cruz for the current season is estimated at 30,000 tons. The annual consumption of the country is from 100,000 to 120,000 tons.

The Henequen Industry

Millions Added to the Wealth of the Country by the Best Paid Workingmen in the Entire Republic

ONE of the leading industries of Mexico is the production of "sisal" or "henequen" fiber, which enters largely into the manufacture of cordage and some forms of fabrics. The principal demand for the raw material is for use in the manufacture of twine for harvesting machinery, the headquarters for such enterprises being in the United States, though the finished product finds its way to all portions of the world. The war has, however, stimulated its use in other forms, and the production of the fiber has been largely increased in Mexico.

The plant from which the fiber is extracted is one of the Agave family, and closely resembles the maguey, well known as the source of the beverage called pulque, but which is also valuable for its fiber as well as for the manufacture of sugar, an enterprise which the Government is encouraging, while at the same time discouraging the production of the deleterious liquor.

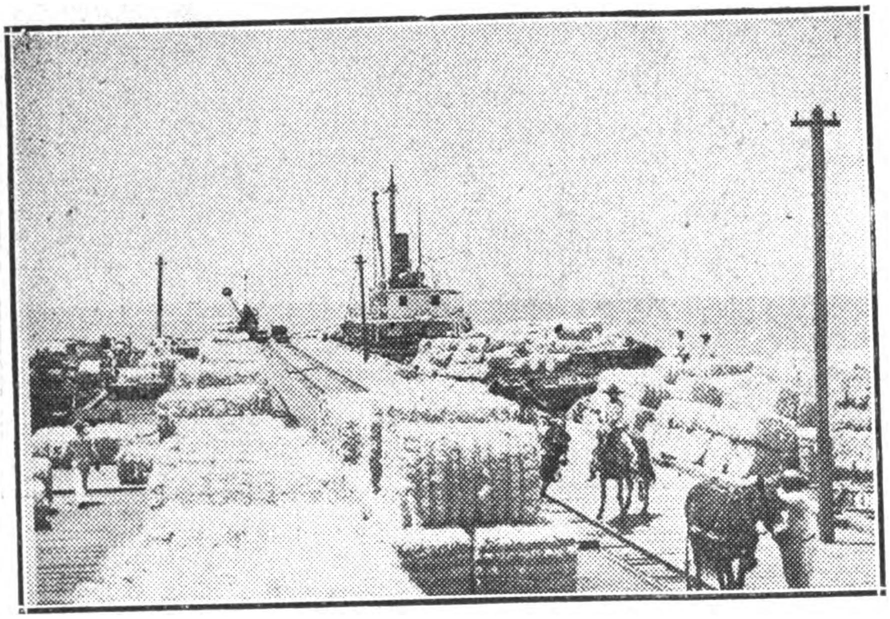
Owing to certain peculiarities of the soil and climate of the State of Yucatan, the extreme southeastern portion of the Republic, that section has become the center for the cultivation of the plant and the production of the fiber. Other portions of the country produce considerable quantities, and there is no inherent reason for its cultivation not being extended upon a large scale.

The plant is propagated from the small "suckers" growing at the roots of the parent stalk, and it requires several years of cultivation before the leaves are of sufficient size to utilize in fiber making. These leaves are from three to five feet in length, and continuous crops are gathered from the same plant for an extended term of years. After being cut from the parent stem with a "machete," or large knife, the leaves are taken to the machinery shed, where they are put through a special machine designed for rapid decortication. The resultant fiber is carried into the open air and suspended from wires or otherwise disposed until it is thoroughly dried by the heat of the sun.

It is then packed in bales and shipped to various portions of the world where there is a demand for it.

Everything in Yucatan centers around the henequen industry, and the annual produce brings in a constant revenue of many millions. The capacity of that State for the production of this fiber is only limited by the ability to secure a constant supply of labor. Since the Revolution laborers on the plantations and in the manufactories have had their hours of work shortened and their rate of pay increased until they are the best paid workmen in all the Republic. They are remunerated largely upon the piece system, and as a result six or seven hours' labor daily brings them in a handsome wage.

In connection with the separation of the fiber from the bulk of the stalk, it is a fact that cattle and other domestic animals eat the refuse pulp with avidity, and become fat and robust upon no other food. Indeed, when this pulp is available, they will touch nothing else, but remain close to the factories until they are sated.



Shipping Henequen Fiber in Bales From Progreso, Yucatan

Under the direction of Secretary Pastor Rouaix, of the Department of Fomento, the Director General of Archaeology and Ethnology is prosecuting investigations of some hitherto unexplored ruins in the State of Chiapas. Some very interesting evidences have been discovered, showing the intermixture of the Mayas with the Mixtecas and Zapotecas, and the study will be pursued extensively and systematically, many valuable additions to the history of the country thus being found.

Old Mexico

GUADALUPE

No matter how you love me
  You cannot keep me home.
Along the airy lane of bells
  Beyond the peacock dome,

I know the way to travel,
  And I shall got at will—
Where the stone sails await the wind
  Upon the holy hill.

The mariners who made them,
  They have been long away:
But when a wind from Heaven blows,
  They will come back some day;

And I shall hear them singing
  And watch the stone sails fill,
Till the white city like a ship
  Moves out across the hill.

POPOCATEPETL

Dusk, and the far volcano wears
  A film of sunset sky.
The valley glimmers like the sea,
  And little winds go by.

The jasmine flower upon my breast
  Is an insistent word,
But patiently my stubborn heart
  Pretends it has not heard.

TAMPICO

Oh, cut me reeds to blow upon,
  Or gather me a star,
But leave the sultry passion-flowers
  Growing where they are.

I fear their sombre yellow deeps,
  Their whirling fringe of black,
And he who gives a passion-flower
  Always asks it back.

AMECAMECA

I climb the sacred hillside
  Up through the evening blue:
The ancient steps are silvered
  By starlight and the dew.

And if the gray church vanish,
  My soul may worship still,
For God has hung the Southern Cross
  Above the kneeling hill.

VERA CRUZ

I see them in the storm-washed light,
  Like ebony against the sand;
The wrecks of ships lost long ago
  From many a mellow land.

Oh, may the sand soon cover them,
  And all their sorrow be unlearned!
They are too like those dreams of mine
  That nevermore returned.

—GRACE HAZARD CONKLING in Poetry.

The new chemical laboratory and museum of agriculture has been inaugurated in the City of Mexico. It is equipped with the latest facilities for the conduct of experiments and investigations, and much good is expected to result.

On January 24th, the fifteenth anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Engineers and Architects was celebrated in the salon of the Department of Fine Arts. New officers were elected and committees appointed upon various cognate topics.

The Boy Scout movement has proved very popular in the Republic and organizations have been effected in all the principal cities. Reports from the Territory of Lower California are that similar movement is under way, the organizations being known as "Explorers."

False Publications

Regarding Mexico Energetically Denounced by Secretary of State Lansing

SOME time ago Secretary of State Lansing denounced as "fakes" a number of widely published stories relative to Mexican-American relations, and particularly those which declared that the United States was prepared to land military forces at Tampico to protect the oil fields. Also that Mr. Luis Cabrera, former Finance Minister of Mexico, who recently was in conference with Washington officials, had left the United States "in a huff" and had gone to Buenos Aires to participate in a conference of American neutrals.

Mr. Lansing asserted that the stories to which he took exception had been republished in Mexico and had been the cause of great embarrassment to the American Government.

"There is not a word of truth in the Cabrera story," said Mr. Lansing, and he added that the others were "absolutely false."

"The Department of State is informed that certain newspapers in Mexico are reproducing articles recently published in the United States to the effect that this Government is making preparations to cope with disturbances in the Tampico oil district, and that the American forces are held in readiness for that purpose.

"The Department of State desires to announce there is no foundation whatever for the articles mentioned."

"This Government's policies with regard to Mexico," the Secretary stated, *"have not changed and there is no reason for change."*

Dispatches from Mexico City state that Mr. Cabrera left Washington for Argentine in accordance with a previously arranged plan, and that his stay in Washington and New York was cut short by the necessity for taking the steamer in order to take part in the Pan-American congress to be held at Buenos Aires.

It would be interesting to know who are responsible for the publication of the "fakes" so strongly denounced by Secretary Lansing. It ought not to be difficult to ascertain their identity.

A number of foreign-owned textile factories in the city of Mexico having closed their doors arbitrarily and without notice to the thousands of employes, they were officially notified that they must reopen them at once, or in default pay each employe three months' wages as provided by the new Constitution. Otherwise the Government would operate the establishments on behalf of the people. The factories were reopened.

Carlos Salcedo, an intelligent mechanic employed in the railway shops in Mexico City, has perfected a device for the automatic stoppage of a locomotive when the engineer "overruns his signals." Tests are said to have proved the value of the invention. This is but one of many inventions made by native mechanics since the railway management adopted measures for the stimulation of inventive genius.

FEDERATION OF LABOR ADOPTS REGULATIONS

At the recent session of the American Federation of Labor, in Buffalo, N. Y., the following resolutions of great interest to Mexican workingmen were adopted:

"WHEREAS, The Mexican miners in the Clifton-Morenci-Metcalf district, numbering over five thousand men, who have just been granted charters as local numbers 86, 80 and 84 by the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, desire to do everything in their power not only to organize the entire fourteen thousand Mexican miners in the State of Arizona, but, in addition, to assist in the organizing of the thousands of Mexican miners throughout the States of New Mexico, Colorado, California, Nevada, Utah and Oklahoma; and

"WHEREAS, There are in the United States to-day between one and two million Mexicans, the large majority of whom are wage workers not yet organized in their respective trades; and

"WHEREAS, During the period of the war and the period of reconstruction which must follow it is especially necessary to maintain practical fraternal relations with the organized labor movement of Mexico, so that wage workers crossing the border from either side shall immediately become members of the organized labor movement of the country in which they work, thereby protecting and uplifting the standards of living necessary to the welfare of both the United States of America and the United States of Mexico; therefore, be it

"Resolved, By this, the Thirty-seventh Annual Convention of the American Federation of Labor, that for the period of the war full powers be given the Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee, of which Samuel Gompers is chairman and John Murray secretary, to co-operate with the internationals affiliated with the A. F. of L. for the purpose of organizing the Mexican workers in the United States in such a manner as will amply protect the organized labor movement of both countries."

MEXICO'S FOREIGN POLICY

(*Concluded from page* 4)

sing's office on Saturday, December 8, and were received by him.

Not Engaged in Propaganda

"There was nothing in the negotiation that could not be handled by myself, and, as Cabrera had to leave at once for New York to catch a steamer for South America, he did not see Mr. Lansing again. After he had sailed the word came of the postponement of the convention until April. It is a three weeks' journey to Buenos Aires, and it would have been obviously useless for him to return and make the journey again.

"The Mexican delegates to this convention, Don Luis Cabrera and Don Gerzayn Ugarte, with two secretaries, one military attache and one representative of the press, are not involved in any propaganda; they are true Mexicans, absolutely neutral, and committed to keeping Mexico out of complications. That is all there is to the Cabrera mission."

LABOR LAWS OF MEXICO STATE

(*Continued from page* 7)

IX—If as a consequence of an accident in the work, as in the cases of enterprises pointed out by Section VI, the professional illness from which the worker was suffering is increased and hastens his death, his heirs shall receive the living pensions pointed out in Section VII, minus 5 per cent respectively.

X—The provisions contained in Section VI of the present article will also be applied to the cases of disability for work, as determined by professional illness, manifested naturally, during the performance of work, with the difference in that the life pensions will be 50 per cent of the salary, or of the difference, in its case, and the temporary compensations of a 60 per cent of the salaries, or of the difference of the products of these, respectively, according to the cases pointed out by the same section.

Likewise will be applied the dispositions in Section VII to cases of death of the worker by reason of professional illness, when the living pensions that correspond to the heirs should only be reduced according to the cases, to 50 per cent of the amount fixed by the said section.

During illness of the worker, which illness is not of venereal character, or the result of any vice, he shall have the right to receive medical and pharmaceutical attention, and to receive his whole salary up to one month.

XII—In case of death from accident caused by the work, or from professional sickness, the funeral costs will be incurred by the employer.

Patrimony of the Family

XIII—In pursuance of Section XXVIII of Article 123 of the Federal Constitution, the patrimony of the family should have a real value up to one thousand pesos, national gold, and shall consist of living house, grounds for cultivation, tools, furniture, cattle, etc.

XIV—The term for the total payment of cheap and hygienic houses, intended to be acquired in proprietorship by the workers shall not be less than fifteen years.

XV—In whatever shop, industrial, mercantile, or agricultural establishment, at least two-thirds of the personnel should be Mexicans.

Reports from the State of Jalisco are that the crops are abundant for local needs, but that there is no surplus for supplying other sections, as is usually the case.

LATE NEWS NOTES

At the last session of the National Agrarian Commission several community lands were restored to their rightful owners in Guanajuato, Puebla, Morelos, and other States.

Official reports from Yucatan state that the crops of corn, beans, chile, sweet potatoes, peanuts, etc., have been very abundant and sufficient to satisfy the needs of the community.

The Deputies from the State of Queretaro have initiated a comprehensive system of irrigation for that State, and the waters of several streams will be utilized to their utmost extent.

A concession for the construction of a railway from Tuxpam to Tampico has been annulled by the Department of Communications and Public Works because of failure to comply with the terms of the contract.

The owners of a number of large haciendas in the State of Mexico have submitted a project to the government for the subdivision and sale of a portion of their holdings to people desiring to cultivate them.

The Government of the State of Coahuila has directed the immediate repartition of public lands and waters situated in the vicinity of various communities, and which are needed for the cultivation of food crops.

A compilation is being made of all the data regarding the production and shipment of tropical fruits throughout the Republic, and the result will be given to the public in a volume to be issued by the Department of Agriculture.

A plant has been discovered in the State of Michoacan by the Agricultural Experimental station, the juice of which affords a fluid which takes the place of the red ink of commerce for industrial purposes. The plant is known as "Irguan."

So successful have been the demonstrations of various tractors for agricultural use that have been imported by the Department of Agriculture from the United States, that urgent requests are being received for them from many portions of the Republic.

The Secretary of the Department of Fomento has recently authorized the Financial Agent of the Government in New York to expend a large amount in the purchase of tractors for use by the various agricultural experimental stations in various localities.

An agricultural congress met on December 10th in Morelia, capital of the State of Michoacan, for the purpose of discussing many questions of importance regarding the agricultural development of that State, which is one of the leading portions of the Republic in that respect.

Under the direction of the Director General of the Department of Agriculture, special classes in bee culture and in rabbit breeding have been inaugurated at the National Agricultural College. Instruction in the rearing of valuable birds and poultry of all kinds has also been undertaken.

Land which has been reclaimed by the drainage of low portions of Lake Chapala is now being cultivated, and it is being demonstrated to be of superior fertility. A specimen of cauliflower produced there and weighing twenty-two pounds, was recently sent to the Department of Agriculture in Mexico City for exhibition.

News has been received that in the republic of Chile the crops of corn, oats, and barley have been exceptionally abundant and that a large surplus is available for exportation if desired. It is suggested by the press that supplies might be obtained in that country for relief of the shortage in certain portions of Mexico.

Upward of fifteen hundred men with their officers, who have heretofore allied themselves with the Zapatistas, have petitioned for amnesty and asked that lands be allotted to them for cultivation for the support of themselves and families, as they have been suffering from privation. Their request will undoubtedly be granted.

The Governor of the State of Chiapas has informed the national government that enormous crops of corn and other food products were raised during the past season, and that a large surplus is available for export if transportation facilities are afforded. This State has been reported in the foreign press as in a condition of great disorder.

An appropriation of two million dollars has been granted for irrigation development in various portions of the Republic. A special commission has been appointed by the Secretary of Fomento to take charge of the matter and make the best possible use of the waters of various streams that have been declared the property of the people.

The special commissioner appointed to negotiate with the American irrigation authorities concerning the division of the waters of the Rio Grande impounded by the Elephant Butte dam, reports that the amount allotted is 66,000,000 cubic meters, and that in his opinion this is not an equitable division. The matter will be taken up by the Secretary of Foreign Relations. The total capacity of this reservoir is 800,000,000,000 gallons.

In accordance with Article 27 of the Constitution, the President has announced that the waters of certain important streams in the States of Jalisco, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Colima, Durango, Nuevo Leon, and Michoacan are the property of the nation and will be administered as such. The Department of Industry and Colonization is investigating the entire question and making recommendations in accordance with the results of their inquiries.

OIL AND MINING

The Penn-Mex. Oil Company brought in two wells on the same day recently in the Tampico district. One was at a depth of 2000 feet, and the other 2700 feet, and the yield is expected to be from 5000 to 10,000 barrels daily, no measurement of the flow having yet been made.

An oil company at Tampico whose stockholders had lost faith in the enterprise and the shares of which had become valueless in the market, recently and unexpectedly struck a flow estimated at twenty thousand barrels daily. The name of the company is not given in the dispatches.

For the week ending December 4th, twenty-five vessels cleared from the port of Tampico with cargoes of oil, bound for various portions of the world, but mostly for American ports. They ranged in capacity from 800 to over 10,000 tons. Shipments of petroleum show a heavy increase.

The Texas Company (a foreign petroleum concern) has been granted permission to construct certain wharves and docks on the banks of the Panuco river for the handling of oil, and for which it is required to pay the equivalent of $37.50 gold per month rental to the Government for a period of eight years.

The reopening of the copper mines at Cananea has caused the return of thousands of workmen and their families who had been obliged to seek a livelihood in other localities. All lines of business have resumed their activity and the camp is in a flourishing condition, aided by the high prices of refined copper.

It is announced that as a result of the method of levying taxes upon petroleum and its products, several projects are now under way for the construction of extensive refineries in the Tampico oil region, which will be of great benefit to the country. This was the avowed purpose of certain of the provisions of the law.

Many applications have been presented to the authorities of the Territory of Lower California for permission to exploit the recently discovered petroleum measures in that portion of the Republic. They have all been referred to the National officials, as the local ones have no authority under the law governing such matters.

An application has been made to the Secretary of Industry and Commerce for permission to exploit the sulphur deposits in the volcano of Popocatapetl. The applicants claim to have an assurance that they will be able to secure large quantities of the valuable mineral for which there is at present a large demand for the manufacture of explosives.

Official notice has been given to the President of the Republic by the officials of the Cananea Copper Company in Sonora that operations have been resumed. Two of the smelters have been put into commission and the other four will be as soon as the necessary ore can be extracted from the mines. Employment is thus assured for several thousand men.

A concession has been granted to the East Coast Oil Company for the construction of thirty kilometers of pipe line for carrying petroleum, gas and water from the interior to a point on the Panuco river. Also for the construction of telegraph and telephone lines, pumping plants and all the equipment of an extensive oil plant. This is a foreign-owned company.

Notwithstanding the effects of the embargo on traffic in certain articles imposed by the United States, the traffic of the National lines shows a constant increase. During the week from November 23d to November 30th the receipts were as follows: Freights, $698,047; passengers, $376,134; express, $286,319; miscellaneous, $31,421, or a total of $1,391,091.

A considerable number of men have recently arrived in Tampico from the United States to engage in the construction of pipe-lines, railways, roads, etc., for the use of companies engaged in developing the petroleum resources of that region. Recently completed works in the port of Tampico add facilities for handling twenty thousand barrels of oil daily to the already extensive plants at that place.

A new system of inspection of petroleum properties has been devised for the purpose of more effectually carrying out the provisions of the law in this respect, which has been in force upward of two years, but has been evaded by many companies and persons. Under the new system it is expected that over ten millions will be added to the annual income of the Government.

Because of the large demand for steel and other things needed in the construction of tanks for the petroleum business, and in other departments as well, it is proposed to establish works at Tampico, the locality of the principal demand, for the purpose of producing everything needed in that line and thus obviate the necessity for importation, which has been seriously hampered by the war. The Government will encourage the enterprise, it is stated, by suitable tariff provisions for the protection of home industry.

Mexico the Land of Silver

More Than a Billion Dollars' Worth Produced Between 1877 and 1913—Total Yield to Date, $4,500,000,000

From Industrial and Mining Age

HERE are the official figures of silver and gold produced by the mines of Mexico from 1877 to 1913. It is a remarkable fact that from 1877 to 1912 the silver output showed a steady increase from year to year and that in the 17 years ending 1913 Mexico produced considerably more than a billion ounces of silver, valued at today's market price for the white metal at over nine hundred million dollars. The Mexican revolution began late in 1910 but did not gain sufficient headway to impede mine production until late in 1912. Official figures since 1913 are not available. However, unofficial estimates have been made and these show that from the beginning of the history of Mexico to date the total silver output of the Mexican Republic is around $4,500,000,000.

SILVER PRODUCTION IN MEXICO, THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

This table, compiled from official figures, shows the silver production of the United States, Mexico and Canada from 1877 to 1916 inclusive. Herein it is seen that the first place in silver production, during the period named, belongs to the United States. A glance at the table will, however, at once establish the fact that beginning with 1897 Mexican silver production was every year ahead of that of the United States and continued to increase steadily until the end of 1912, when the Mexican revolution began to have its effect. In 1911, just before the revolution commenced, Mexico actually produced more than 19,000,000 ounces in silver in excess of the production of the United States. The year before, 1910, Mexico's excess production was 17,000,000 ounces. In 1909 Mexico produced 18,000,000 ounces more than the United States, and in 1908, 21,000,000 ounces. The reopening of the Mexican mining country, as a result of the termination of the revolution, should mean the quick return of Mexico into prominence as the world's largest silver producer.

Official reports from the mines of the State of Hidalgo state that the principal enterprises are in full operation and that the smaller ones are preparing to resume. The mines of Pachuca, capital of the State, produce more silver than any other single district in the Republic, and have kept up their production throughout the revolutionary troubles with only temporary suspension for brief periods, mainly from lack of chemical supplies for reduction of the ores.

Official reports from Sonora state that during the month of November there was a very general renewal of operations in the principal mines of that State. More than 15,000 men were given employment and over twenty of the largest mines are now producing bullion. Many new applications have been received for the exploitation of new mineral deposits, and the revival is general throughout the entire west coast.

PRODUCTION OF GOLD AND SILVER IN THE REPUBLIC OF MEXICO FISCAL YEARS OF 1877-'78 TO 1912-'13 (OFFICIAL)

	Gold Troy Oz.	Value	Silver Troy Oz.	Value	Gold & Silver Total Value
1877–1878..........	35,510	$736,956.16	19,500,051	$12,418,451.51	$13,155,407.67
1878–1879..........	41,915	869,882.49	19,734,302	12,567,632.00	13,437,514.49
1879–1880..........	44,800	929,753.01	21,634,587	13,777,813.49	14,707,566.50
1880–1881..........	48,164	999,576.17	22,952,631	14,617,199.00	15,616,775.17
1881–1882..........	44,527	924,093.02	22,956,305	14,619,538.99	15,543,632.01
1882–1883..........	45,450	943,256.97	23,215,003	14,784,288.49	15,727,545.47
1883–1884..........	50,185	1,041,512.73	24,885,169	15,847,920.50	16,889,433.23
1884–1885..........	43,477	902,334.41	26,086,699	16,613,105.51	17,515,439.92
1885–1886..........	31,295	649,494.37	26,857,694	17,104,107.01	17,753,601.38
1886–1887..........	32,491	674,306.65	29,468,930	18,767,051.99	19,441,353.64
1887–1888..........	31,597	655,757.02	30,908,753	19,683,991.49	20,339,748.51
1888–1889..........	32,554	675,611.64	32,463,018	20,873,813.00	21,349,424.64
1889–1890..........	33,335	691,827.60	30,742,859	19,578,343.50	20,270,171.10
1890–1891..........	43,789	908,773.06	32,876,610	20,937,205.51	21,845,978.56
1891–1892..........	51,110	1,060,723.35	36,976,328	23,548,078.00	24,608,791.35
1892–1893..........	60,397	1,253,453.53	43,374,523	27,622,717.00	28,876,170.53
1893–1894..........	59,195	1,228,494.93	45,702,193	29,105,074.99	30,333,569.92
1894–1895..........	225,654	4,683,069.62	45,697,431	29,102,042.50	33,785,112.12
1895–1896..........	289,409	6,006,197.65	47,895,454	30,501,836.01	36,508,033.66
1896–1897..........	326,320	6,772,230.40	50,003,858	31,844,556.00	38,616,786.40
1897–1898..........	360,710	7,485,917.95	55,076,148	35,074,802.97	42,560,720.92
1898–1899..........	444,529	9,225,442.93	56,920,496	36,249,361.49	45,474,804.42
1899–1900..........	372,101	7,722,333.36	55,120,563	35,109,457.01	42,831,790.37
1900–1901..........	443,625	9,206,690.31	58,387,578	37,163,203.00	46,369,893.32
1901–1902..........	472,406	9,903,983.49	56,945,824	36,265,491.49	46,069,474.98
1902–1903..........	478,771	9,936,073.82	65,015,173	41,404,391.49	51,340,465.32
1903–1904..........	548,728	11,387,907.53	64,676,598	41,188,773.00	52,576,680.53
1904–1905..........	684,405	14,203,656.49	62,061,823	39,523,573.99	53,727,230.48
1905–1906..........	877,195	18,204,684.03	59,426,785	37,802,802.63	56,007,486.66
1906–1907..........	880,918	18,281,949.12	56,491,232	38,544,413.50	56,826,362.62
1907–1908..........	976,403	20,263,592.63	69,097,790	42,683,452.03	62,947,044.66
1908–1909..........	1,081,312	22,440,810.46	73,602,973	38,538,048.58	60,978,859.04
1909–1910..........	1,163,563	24,147,754.19	72,514,069	38,185,942.07	62,333,696.26
1910–1911..........	1,192,147	24,740,977.96	74,047,341	40,439,364.66	65,180,342.62
1911–1912..........	1,169,782	24,276,816.06	80,106,994	44,814,217.60	69,091,033.66
1912–1913..........	930,174	19,304,166.53	67,824,693	42,817,792.31	62,121,958.85
Totals.........	13,647,938	$283,240,061.64	1,661,248,478	$1,029,519,854.31	$1,312,759,900.98

	MEXICO		UNITED STATES		CANADA	
Year	Troy Oz.	Value	Troy Oz.	Value	Troy Oz.	Value
1877.......	19,500,051	$12,418,452	30,777,800	$36,991,500	....	....
1878.......	19,734,302	12,567,632	35,022,300	40,401,000	....	....
1879.......	21,634,587	13,777,813	31,565,500	35,477,100	....	....
1880.......	22,952,631	14,617,199	30,318,700	34,717,000	....	....
1881.......	22,956,305	14,619,539	33,257,800	37,657,500	....	....
1882.......	23,215,003	14,784,289	36,196,900	41,105,900	....	....
1883.......	24,885,169	15,847,920	35,732,800	39,618,400	....	....
1884.......	26,086,699	16,613,105	37,743,800	41,921,300	....	....
1885.......	26,857,694	17,104,107	39,909,400	42,503,500	....	....
1886.......	29,468,930	18,767,052	39,694,000	39,482,400	....	....
1887.......	30,908,753	19,683,991	41,721,600	40,887,200	....	....
1888.......	32,463,018	20,873,813	45,792,700	43,045,100	....	....
1889.......	30,742,859	19,578,343	50,094,500	46,838,400	....	....
1890.......	32,876,610	20,937,205	54,516,300	57,242,100	....	....
1891.......	36,976,328	23,548,078	58,330,000	57,630,000	....	....
1892.......	43,374,523	27,622,717	63,500,000	55,662,500	....	....
1893.......	45,702,193	29,105,075	60,000,000	46,800,000	....	....
1894.......	45,697,431	29,102,042	49,500,000	31,422,100	....	....
1895.......	47,895,454	30,501,836	55,727,000	36,445,500	....	....
1896.......	50,003,858	31,844,556	58,834,800	39,654,600	....	....
1897.......	55,076,148	35,074,803	53,860,000	32,316,000	....	....
1898.......	56,920,496	36,249,361	54,438,000	32,118,400	....	....
1899.......	55,120,563	35,109,457	54,764,500	32,858,700	....	....
1900.......	58,387,578	37,163,203	57,647,000	35,741,100	....	....
1901.......	56,945,824	36,265,491	55,214,000	33,128,400	....	....
1902.......	65,015,173	41,404,391	55,500,000	29,415,000	....	....
1903.......	64,676,598	41,188,773	54,300,000	29,322,000	....	....
1904.......	62,061,823	39,523,574	57,682,800	33,456,000	206,875	$111,887
1905.......	59,426,785	37,802,803	56,101,600	34,222,000	2,451,356	1,360,503
1906.......	56,491,232	38,544,413	56,517,900	38,256,400	5,401,766	3,667,551
1907.......	69,097,790	42,683,452	56,514,700	37,299,700	10,023,311	6,155,391
1908.......	73,602,973	38,538,048	52,440,800	28,050,600	19,437,875	9,133,378
1909.......	72,514,069	38,185,942	54,721,500	28,455,200	25,897,825	12,461,576
1910.......	74,047,341	40,439,364	57,137,900	30,854,500	30,645,181	15,478,047
1911.......	80,106,994	44,814,217	60,399,400	32,615,700	31,507,791	15,953,847
1912.......	67,824,693	42,817,792	63,766,800	39,197,500	30,243,859	17,408,935
1913.......	....	....	66,801,500	40,348,100	29,681,975	16,553,981
1914.......	....	....	72,455,100	40,067,700	25,162,841	12,765,461
1915.......	....	....	74,961,075	37,397,300	23,653,713	11,703,966
1916.......	....	....	74,414,802	48,953,000	21,600,000	14,248,000
Totals..	1,661,248,478	$1,029,719,138	2,077,875,277	$1,539,576,400	255,914,368	$137,002,523

Note—No official figures regarding Mexican production 1913-1916 inclusive are obtainable, because of the Revolution, now ended.

Proposed Petroleum Law

Draft of Measure Prepared by a Specially Appointed Commission After Consultation With Leading Oil Men—Will Be Submitted to the Industrial Congress for Approval and Afterwards to the National Congress

SEVERAL months ago a special commission was appointed for the purpose of drawing up a comprehensive measure governing the development of the petroleum industry of the Republic. Many of the leading men engaged in the industry were consulted, and after full discussion a plan was agreed upon and is now published.

Secretary Pani of the Department of Industry and Commerce states in this connection that the draft of the proposed law as published is first to be submitted to the National Industrial Congress, and that at present it "has no value except as the expression of the personal opinion of its authors." The time of its submission to the National Chamber of Deputies is therefore problematical. Nevertheless it is of interest to all as an indication of the trend that legislation will probably take in dealing with the matter of the petroleum deposits which form so important a portion of Mexico's natural wealth.

The text of the project is as follows:

CHAPTER I

Petroleum Lands and Their Accession

Article I.—The following property is under the direct dominion of the Nation and subject to the provisions of this law:

(I) The sources, springs and natural deposits of petroleum.

(II) The gas hydrocarbures found in the undersoil or escaping on the surface of the ground.

(III) The natural deposits of ozocerite and of asphalt.

(IV) All combinations of hydrocarbures of the different groups owing their origin to natural agents.

Article 2.—The direct National dominion of the Nation upon the substances enumerated in the last Article is inalienable and imprescriptible, and therefore, the titles granted in accordance with this law in no case will constitute an absolute and definite property.

Article 3.—The titles granted in accordance with this law may be mortgaged, sold or transfered as inheritance, as in the same cases authorized by law in regard to real estate. The Department of Industry and Commerce must be informed of such transactions. Without this requisite they will be considered void.

Article 4.—The petroleum industry is hereby declared a public utility, and therefore the procedure of expropriation operates in its favor, in accordance with Article 27 of the Federal Constitution.

Article 5.—A petroleum claim is of indefinite depth in volume, the depth being determined by the vertical surfaces passing through the limits of a continuous superficial extension.

Article 6.—The superficial extension of a petroleum claim will consist of at least four hectares (ten acres), and its form will be such, as will permit the localization of a well and a standard tank, in accordance with the regulations in force at the date of the concession.

Article 7.—Each petroleum claim shall need a permit or a concession.

Article 8.—The concessionary of a petroleum claim is permitted to extract from it all the substances referred to in Article I, with no other limitation than that of not invading with its works of extraction the claim of a neighbor, and that of fulfilling the regulations in regard of this law, and the regulations in regard to exploitations.

Article 9—The exploiters of a petroleum claim shall occupy within the limits of the property and through the judicious authorization of the Department of Commerce and Industry, the superficial extension needed for the extraction works and for the storage of the products already extracted, paying in this case to the interested party the necessary indemnization.

Article 10.—The exploiters of the petroleum claim will obtain the right of way through the judicious authorization of the Department of Commerce and Industry through any land, and will be authorized to install the pipes and pumping stations which may be required for the exploitation of the claim, paying to the interested parties the corresponding indemnities.

Article 11.—The exploiters of the petroleum property will have the right to establish storage stations and refineries, with the previous approbation of the department of Industry and Commerce and the acquiescence of the owners of the land that they propose to occupy. In case of not obtaining this acquiescence, the necessary land will be expropriated, in accordance with the respective articles of this law.

Article 12.—In the petroleum property only the concessionaries will have the right to establish storage stations or refineries.

Article 13.—The exploiters of petroleum properties will have the right to establish piers, loading places and submarine pipes through the approbation of the Department of Industry and Commerce and in accordance with the dispositions which may be enacted in this regard by the Departments of Finance and Public Credit and Communications and Public Works.

Article 14.—The refiners will have the right to expropriate the necessary area to establish their installations, with the previous authorization of the Department of Industry and Commerce and in the terms of the final part of Article 11.

Article 15.—The concessionaries of the petroleum property shall use the surface waters necessary for their exploitation in accordance with the laws regarding the matter. They shall also use the underground waters with the same object in view, with the previous authorization of the Department of Industry and Commerce and through the corresponding indemnity for any one having the right to it.

CHAPTER II

How the Title to a Petroleum Claim May Be Obtained and How It May Be Lost

Article 16.—The right for the exploitation of a petroleum property is acquired originally from the nation, with the title issued by the Department of Industry and Commerce in representation of the executive power, once the requisites established by this law are fulfilled.

Article 17.—For the purposes of this law the lands of the Republic are considered divided as follows:

First.—Lands of private property.

Second.—Lands "pro indiviso."

Third.—Lands of public property and of a common use.

Fourth.—Lands inhabited (towns).

Fifth.—Community lands.

Sixth.—All land the property of the Nation and not included in the above mentioned classifications.

Article 18.—In lands of private ownership the right to exploit a petroleum claim will be granted through previous denunciation and through the payment of the rent and the fulfillment of the other requirements established in this law and its regulations.

Article 19.—In lands "pro indiviso" only the joint owners shall denounce petroleum claims. But the transactions of the claims will be suspended until all the joint owners or their representatives meet before the Secretary of Industry and Commerce, called by him after proper announcement in order to make an expressed and attested manifestation of their individual rights; and once in accordance, the title will be issued to them in common of the petroleum deposits existing in the undersoil of the "pro indiviso" land. In these titles the representation of each joint owner is stated. The Department of Industry and Commerce is authorized to appoint a Committee which will have power to negotiate, before whom the issuance of the property titles to the joint owners is necessary.

Article 20.—In the national lands of public use only the Department of Industry and Commerce shall undertake exploration or exploitation of petroleum, with the previous authorization of the Congress of the Union.

Article 21.—In the inhabited lands (or towns) no permits for petroleum exploration or exploitation shall be granted.

Article 22.—In the community lands permits shall be granted for petroleum exploitation after their division and the adjudication of the fractions, under the same conditions as in the lands of private property.

Article 23.—There are considered as national reservations the lands comprehended in sections third and fourth of Article 17, the national lands granted with the exception of the undersoil, and all those which established subsequently in this law may be removed from petroleum exploitation.

Article 24.—The national reservations with the exception of those comprehended in the third fraction of Article 17 shall be granted for exploitation through special contracts entered into with the Department of Industry and Commerce in accordance with the following basis:

a. In all cases there shall be required the fulfillment of all requisites established in this law and in its regulations.

b. In accordance with the position and importance of the property asked, there will be required in favor of the government a participation therein on the production from one to ten per cent.

c. Enterprises asking petroleum claims located in the national reservations, shall have a minimum paid in capital of two million pesos in national gold, of which twenty per cent shall be exhibited before obtaining the concession.

d. The contracts of concessions in the national reservations shall be subject to the approbation of the Congress of the Union.

Article 25.—The preferential right to obtain concessions in the national reservations will be enjoyed by all companies in which the Government of the nation or of any state of the Union may represent more than fifty per cent of the social capital for all the time of its operation, with the right to appoint an inspector, who will be present at the meetings of the governing board and who will examine at any moment its accounts.

Article 26.—Petroleum claims shall be granted only on unoccupied land, not considering as such that occupied by titled claims or in reference to those on which there may be a pending claim.

Article 27.—Neither shall any land be considered as unoccupied during the term of 30 days in which the corresponding declaration be fixed on the bulletin board of the agency of the Department of Petroleum:

1. The properties whose title has been declared extinct.

2. The properties whose claim of denouncement has been definitely disapproved.

Article 28.—The claimant of a petroleum property shall present in duplicate to the corresponding agency of the Department of Industry and Commerce, and Petroleum Division, a denunciation in which he shall give his name, age, profession, residence and nationality, as well as the location, limits and all other marks, so as to identify the property asked for.

Article 29.—If the claimant is a foreigner he shall attach to his claim the certificate of the State Department certifying that he has fulfilled the requisites which are ordained in Article 27 of the Federal Constitution. [See note at end of law.]

Article 30.—The claimant shall present, together with his claim, a certificate of the Division of Internal Revenue certifying that he has deposited the value of the stamps which shall be attached to his denunciation in accordance with the extent of his claim.

Article 31.—The agent of the Petroleum Division shall receive the denunciation and will record it in his register, certifying in it, in the original and in the duplicate of the denunciation, the day and hour of the filing. The claimant may demand that these annotations be made in his presence. If in the opinion of the agent the claim is not sufficiently clear, he will ask for the necessary explanation and will record these in the original, in the duplicate and in the register. The lack of explanation will not be an excuse for not registering the claim. The duplicate shall be returned to the person by whom it was presented.

Article 32.—When several claims may be presented at the same time, fulfilling all the necessary requirements and in regard to the same claim, the decision will be decided by lot.

Article 33.—Within the three days following the filing of a claim, the agent shall determine if it can or cannot be taken into consideration. In the affirmative case he will proceed to transact the matter; in the negative case he will state in writing the reason for his determination, which will be revised by the Department of Industry and Commerce at the request of the claimant.

Article 34.—As soon as the agent may admit a claim he will publish it on the bulletin board for the period of one month, and he will cause to be inserted for three times and for the same length of time in the *Diario Oficial* and in two other newspapers, choosing those which have more circulation in the locality. The claimant shall negotiate and pay for these insertions.

Article 35.—The filing of a claim with all the legally required requisites gives the right of opposition to the claimant. The opposition must be presented before the respective agent within sixty days following the filing of the new claim.

Article 36.—Following are causes of opposition suspending the transaction of a denouncement:

I. The total or partial invasion of a titled petroleum land and whose title has not been declared extinct.

II. A claim legally filed previously upon a part of the whole of the same property claimed.

III. The term not to have ended in which this law establishes preference in favor of any person to make claim to the denounced property or a part of it. From the time in which the party who has the property opposes himself he will be considered the same as the claimant.

Article 37.—The opposition based upon any of the causes established in the preceding article shall be taken before the Petroleum Agency within the term fixed by Article 35.

Article 38.—As soon as the opposition has been formulated a meeting will be called in order to reach an agreement by the parties, observing the proceedings established by the regulations. In case of want of agreement the parties shall be informed in the same act that they may choose the administrative or judicial manner to settle their opposition.

Article 39.—If the parties do not choose immediately for the administrative way, the transaction of the documents shall be suspended and they shall be sent within forty-eight hours to the judicial authority for the substantiation of the corresponding decision of the court, in accordance with the Articles provided in this law.

Article 40.—In case that the parties may choose for the administrative way, the procedure of the case shall continue in order that the Department of Industry and Commerce opportunely and after listening to the claimant and the opposer in accordance with the prescriptions of the regulations, may definitely resolve the opposition.

Article 41.—If the parties may have chosen the administrative way, they will not be permitted to apply to the judiciary; but if they have chosen the latter, they will be allowed, while a decision has not been given, to submit the opposition to the Department of Industry and Commerce for its solution.

Article 42.—Any cause of opposition different to that expressed in Article 36 shall be laid before the agency, but the latter shall not suspend the transaction of the case. The Department of Industry and Commerce, when the case may come for its revision, shall resolve if it will or will not be taken into consideration. In the affirmative, it shall be abstracted and decided, observing the proceedings of Articles 38 and 41. If the Department does not take into consideration the opposition, it will proceed as if it was never formulated, safeguarding the rights of the opponent.

Article 43.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall take into consideration during the revision of the case, the oppositions presented to it, in case that the opponent is able to prove not to have been able to present it to the petroleum agency for causes which are imputable to him.

Article 44.—It shall be declared dilatory on the part of the claimant of a petroleum claim, who within the term given by the regulation does not make the advertisements established by Article 34; the claimant who does not make the explanations asked him, and the claimant who does not assist in the meetings of agreement when an opposition is presented to the same claim. The dilatory claimant will lose the deposit referred to in Article 30.

Article 45.—As soon as the term of sixty days ends without any opposition having been formulated giving cause for the suspension of the administrative proceedings, the Petroleum Agency shall send to the Department of Industry and Commerce a copy of the documents in the case, just as they are.

Article 46.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall issue the titles protecting the petroleum lands after the Petroleum Department revises the case of the agency and after it is favorably decided. These titles give legal possession of the respective petroleum lands without any other formality.

Article 47.—The titles shall be issued without prejudice of a third party in favor of the claimant. In order that they may be issued in favor of a different person it will be necessary to prove his right by means of a public instrument. In order that the interested party may receive his title, he will prove that he has paid the first annuity of rent corresponding to his property, which will begin to count from the date of the claim.

Article 48.—The Petroleum Department will ask the disapprobation of the case when the claim or its transaction may be defective, through infraction of the law or of the regulations, if the infraction is chargeable to the claimant. In this case the disapprobation of the case constitutes the abandoning of the claimant and shall be punished in accordance with Article 44 of this law.

Article 49.—If the infraction could not be chargeable to the claimant, the Department of Industry and Commerce, in view of the proofs presented to it and which will be qualified at its judicious will, will accord the replacement of the case in those parts which may be found defective.

Article 50.—The above-mentioned department shall obtain the correction by the corresponding authorities of the defects incurred in the denouncement, or in the transaction, when they imply an infraction of the law or of these regulations. The claimant who, in his case, does not fulfill what has been ordered by the department, shall be declared to have abandoned his denunciation and he shall be punished by the penalty imposed by Article 44 of this law.

Article 51.—In cases of infraction of the law or the regulations, or of defects in the case chargeable to the agent, the Department of Industry and Commerce shall make effective the responsibility of the latter, without prejudice to the right of the claimant to demand indemnization for the damages and prejudice he may suffer.

Article 52.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall overlook the fault which the dilatory claimant has incurred for not having assisted in the agreement meeting in case of opposition, when the claimant may show that his fault was due to a cause for which he was not blameable.

Article 53.—The lack of furnishing stamps will not be cause for the suspension of the transaction, legalizing the documents of the case in the meanwhile with the seal of the agency, but the Department of Industry and Commerce shall demand the replacement of the stamps before transmitting the titles in the case of final solution. If the claimant does not furnish the stamps within the term fixed, he will be declared deprived of his claim and he will be punished in accordance with Article 44 in regard to a dilatory claimant.

Article 54.—Within the term of one year beginning from the date of the issuance of the title covering the petroleum claim, the interested party shall be required to build masonry boundary marks delimiting the area of the property, visible one from the other, and to present in duplicate form to the Petroleum Division the map of the encircling lands. These maps shall fulfill the requirements of the regulations and in accordance with them he shall proceed to the ratification or rectification of the title.

Article 55.—Within the term of two years, counting from the issuance of the title, the interested party shall present to the Petroleum Division the plans and reports descriptive of the works and installations projected for the exploitation of the petroleum lands. These plans and reports shall fulfill the requirements of the regulations.

Article 56.—Within the term of three years counting from the time of the issuance of the respective title, the concessionary of a petroleum claim shall be obliged to prove before the Petroleum Division that he has started the works for the exploitation of the claim.

Article 57.—Solely within the term of the three years following the issuance of the respective title, the concessionary shall be able to ask the reduction of his claim; the claim once reduced, shall be bounded, and the new title shall be issued, cancelling the original title.

Article 58.—When it is proposed to reduce the extension of a petroleum claim there shall be presented to the corresponding Petroleum Agency the petition for the reduction, with the maps of the reduced claim and the original title. The issuance of the new title will cancel the old one. As soon as the issuance of the new title is accorded, the surplus of the land included in the original title shall be declared free, and a term shall be given to the interested parties for the construction of new boundary monuments.

Article 59.—There shall not be admitted petitions whose object may be to modify a claim with the view of giving more amplitude to the claim already denounced. Every amplification shall be the reason for an independent claim.

Article 60.—The ratification or rectification referred to in Article 54 can be made at the request of the proprietor of the claim or of the adjacent property owners, to whom it may be of interest, or by law, with the consent of the Department of Industry and Commerce. In the latter case the final judgment of the Department of Industry and Commerce will preserve the rights of the proprietor of the petroleum claim and of the adjacent land owners who may think they have been damaged.

Article 61.—The Department of Industry and Commerce, at the request of the owner of the petroleum claim, shall order to administratively correct and without prejudice to the third party, the errors that may exist in the title, in case that the correction may not affect the localization of the claim. In this case a new title can be issued, canceling the former one.

Article 62.—Every rectification shall have as a base the data that may have been included in the denouncement.

Article 63.—A petroleum claim can be divided in fractions satisfying the requirements established by this law; but in order that the division may fill the requirements of the law, the fractions shall be bounded and titled, canceling the original title.

Article 64.—The annual rent which may be fixed for each hectare shall be paid in advance annually. The fraction of an hectare shall be considered as a complete hectare in the payment of the rent.

Article 65.—The discoverer of petroleum deposits outside of the States of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan and the Territory of Quintana Roo, shall pay yearly as rental per hectare, upon a claim of 100 hectares which may be denounced on the discovered deposit, ten per cent of that which may be fixed for common claims.

Article 66.—Every concessionary of a petroleum claim shall be obliged to give to the Department of Industry and Commerce the technic and economic data that it may ask through the Petroleum Division and to admit in their works the alumni of the official schools who may desire to study practically the petroleum industry, giving them all kinds of facilities. This obligation includes the concessionaries of oleoducts, refineries, storage stations and shipping points.

Article 67.—The lack of payment of the rent, in compliance with the conditions imposed in Articles 54, 55, 56 and 66 of this law; the fact of stopping the works for a period of six continuous months without any justifiable cause after having begun the exploitation, or a grave infraction of the regulations, all in accordance with the terms therein expressed, shall be a cause for declaring null the permit or concession.

Article 68.—The nullification shall be declared administratively by the Department of Industry and Commerce, previously calling the interested party for his justification.

Article 69.—The direct and officially recognized exploiter of a claim which may be declared null, shall enjoy the right of preference to denounce it within a term of six months, counting from the date of the declaration of nullification.

Article 70.—If the party exploiting the claim does not make use of the right of preference given him by the previous article, this right shall pass and for the same term to the Department of Industry and Commerce, which will take possession, without prejudice to a third party, of the machinery and the installations applied to the exploitation; and they may continue on their own account said exploitation, to sell it by public auction, or to declare it a national reservation. In the concession title of any petroleum claim there shall be made reference to this article.

(To be continued)

LIC. RAMON OBREGON
CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
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Pacifying the Petroleum Region

OFFICIAL reports have been received from General Manuel M. Dieguez, commanding the forces that are operating against the bandit Palaez in the petroleum regions of Vera Cruz, Tamaulipas and San Luis Potosi, to the effect that the troops under General Herminio Alvarez have routed the Palaez forces and have captured their headquarters at Saladero. By this capture the major portion of the oil region is now under the domination of the Government and ample guarantees have been given to all the inhabitants against further aggressions by Palaez, sufficient garrisons and guards being maintained for that purpose. The section under General Caballero has also obtained control of the greater part of the Huasteca petroleum fields and established order. The important centers of Juan Casiano, Tepetate, Platon Sanchez, Gutierrez Zamora and Papantla, as well as many other places, are now in possession of the Government forces. Large numbers of Palaez's followers surrendered unconditionally, and the remainder fled to the ditionally, and the remainder fled to the Sierra, where they are being energetically pursued. In the advance and operations of the Government troops especial attention was paid to the prevention of damage of any kind to the wells or works of the various extensive petroleum companies operating in that section, and as a result no injury of any consequence has been reported. It is declared that within a few weeks the entire region will be pacified and the last vestiges of banditry eliminated.

The Director of Public Education of the City of Mexico has undertaken to secure a suitable tract of good agricultural land in close proximity, which will be divided into small garden plots and cultivated by the school pupils. Two ends will thus be served—a considerable addition will be made to the available food supply, and at the same time the youth will be instructed in the most advisable agricultural methods and stimulated to habits of industry.

President Carranza Refuses Increased Salary

THE nominal salary of the President of the Republic is $50,000 Mexican gold per annum, or the equivalent of $25,000 American gold. Ever since the installation of President Carranza this has been subjected to a discount of 25 per cent, and he has been receiving his salary at the ratio of $18,751 per annum American money.

At the recent session of Congress the Presidential salary was increased to $54,750 Mexican gold, or $27,375 American money.

When this increase was tendered him on the first of January, the date when it was ordered by Congress to take effect, *he positively declined to accept the extra compensation*, upon the ground that it was unconstitutional to increase the salary during an incumbency.

Assistance Given to Farmers

THE Secretary of Agriculture and Fomento, in order to cooperate in the solution of the food problems of the Republic, has recently sent instructions to the Governors of all the States and Territories, under authority of the Chief Executive of the Republic, that they shall proceed at once to provide lands and tools for planting crops. They are instructed to have the municipal authorities in all localities take cognizance of the arable lands that are permitted to remain unutilized by their owners and these are to be allotted for temporary cultivation to those desiring to make use thereof. Seed and other assistance will be provided by the Government, and it is expected in this manner the coming crop will be abundant for all possible demand and that possibly there may be a surplus for exportation.

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Education in the Federal District

THE Statistical Section of the Department of Public Education of the Federal District has made a preliminary report of the educational work for the year 1917, from which the following facts are taken:

During the year 1917 there was a total of 435 schools in operation, divided into 285 elemental or primary schools, 62 high schools, 52 night schools, 16 kindergartens, 11 industrial schools, 5 commercial schools, 2 normal schools and 2 preparatory schools. These are all public institutions, but there are also a large number of private institutions of learning.

The total attendance at all the public schools during the year was 114,609, divided as follows: Primary, night and kindergarten schools, 104,038; commercial and industrial schools, 8659; normal schools, 784; preparatory schools, 1128.

The number of pupils promoted during the year was 56,702, against 46,414 in 1916, an increase of 10,288. The educational system still feels to some extent the disordered conditions incidental to the revolutionary disturbances, but there is a constant amelioration and improvement in all portions of the department.

The amount expended upon the schools for 1917 has not been announced, but some idea of its extent can be gathered from the fact that during 1916 there was expended a total of $6,216,889 for salaries and incidental expenses, while the inventoried value of the utensils, etc., was over two million dollars. This does not take into account the value of the buildings.

A great deal of attention was paid to the hygiene of the pupils, and the reports show that assistance was given in many thousands of cases, with gratifying results. The eyes, ears and teeth were especial subjects, while the services of the educational sanitary corps were in many cases extended to the habitations of the pupils to a beneficial extent.

The Governors of the border States announce that they have found employment for many thousands of Mexicans who have repatriated themselves during the past few months. Governor Cantu, of Lower California, states that there is employment under his jurisdiction for over eight thousand men, and Governor Gonzales, of Chihuahua, says that thousands have been employed in the mines in that State and Durango, while large numbers have been assisted to go to Yucatan, where the highest wages are paid that are known in the Republic.

The State of Nayarit

Formerly the Territory of Tepic—One of the Most Attractive But Least Known Portions of the Republic

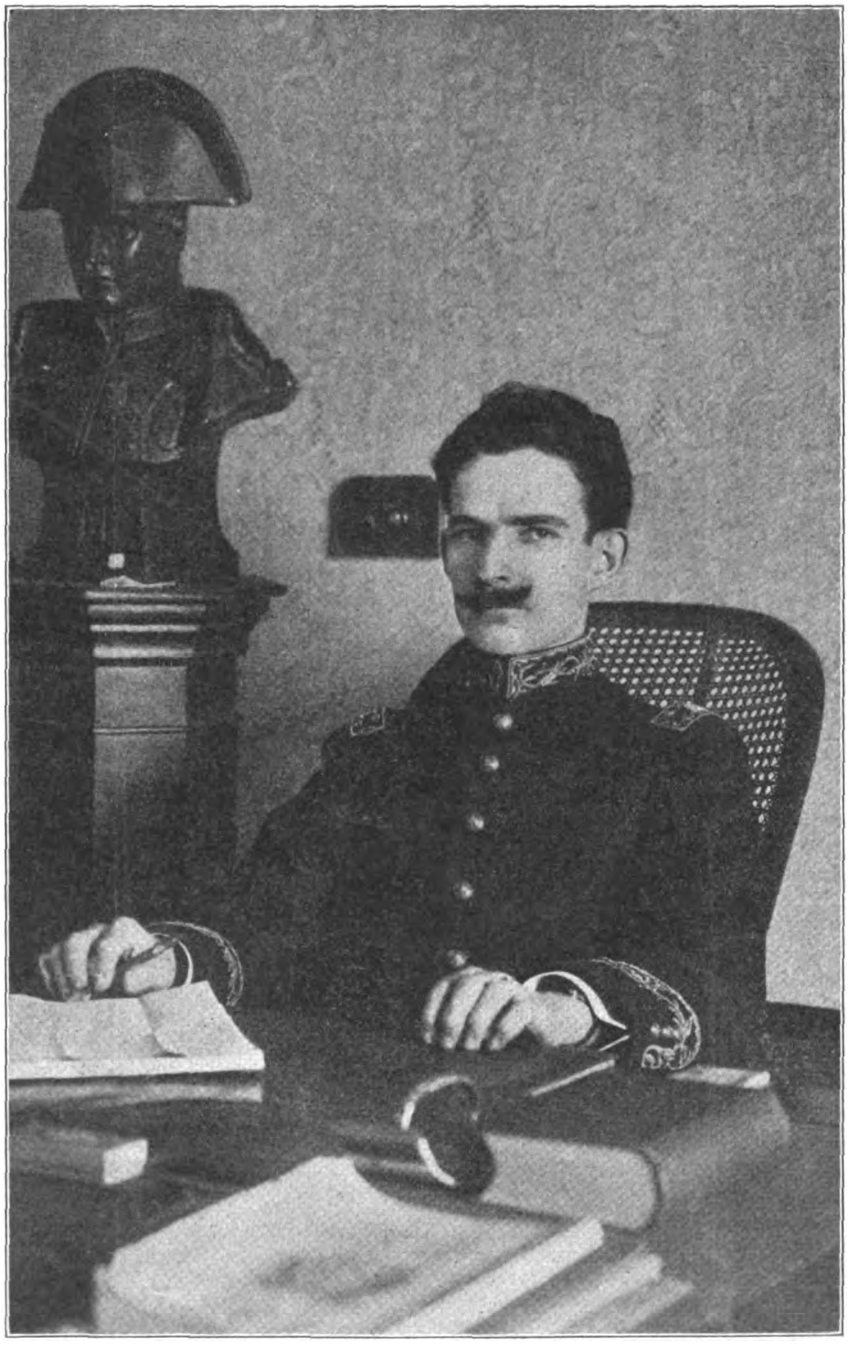
ONE of the least known portions of the entire Republic of Mexico is the present State of Nayarit, formerly the Territory of Tepic. With the adoption of the new constitution in 1917, the ancient name of this section was revived, and instead of a territorial form of government, that of a full-fledged State was conferred upon the commonwealth.

Nayarit is bounded upon the north by the States of Durango and Sinaloa, on the east and south by the State of Jalisco, and on the west by the Pacific Ocean. Its area is 28,371 square kilometers (10,951 square miles). Its population according to the census of 1910 is 171,837, of whom 88,812 are males and 93,025 are females.

The Sierra Madre range traverses the State from southeast to northwest. The eastern portion is exceedingly mountainous. Precipitous cliffs and deep barrancas occur with great frequency. At the bottom of some of these are rapid mountain streams, many of which empty into the Santiago River. The western part of the State is level and is crossed by numerous small rivers and creeks. These streams overflow during the rainy season and flood the plains through which they pass, enriching the soil and rendering it wonderfully fertile and productive. In the southern part of the State, in the district of Ahuacatlán, the country is almost entirely of volcanic origin. In this part of Nayarit is found the celebrated volcano Ceboruc. In 1870 this volcano was in a state of great activity and threw out immense quantities of lava and ashes. Not far from Ceboruc is the celebrated Sanganguey Peak, which rises to a height of 2000 meters (6561 feet) above the level of the sea.

The climate of the lowlands is hot, while that of the higher regions is temperate and agreeable, some of the high mountain tablelands and slopes being comparatively cold.

The principal river that runs through the State is the Lerma, or Santiago, which originates in the tributaries that flow into Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco. This important river empties into the Pacific Ocean just to the north of the port of San Blas. Many smaller streams are found in the State, a number of which could easily be used for irrigating the fertile valleys through which they pass. The Acaponeta, rising in the mountains in the north, empties, after a course of about 130 kilometers (81 miles), into the Pacific Ocean at the Boca de Teacapan. The San Pedro, rising not far from the same place as the Acaponeta, flows in a more southerly direction and empties into the lagoon of Mexcaltitlan, an inlet of the Pacific north of the mouth of the Santiago. There are a few small lakes in the interior, and the shore is indented with lagoons connected with the Pacific Ocean. The coast line of the State measures 500 kilometers (311 miles).



Provisional Governor J. M. Ferreira, of the State of Nayarit

The agricultural productions are numerous and abundant. They are similar in variety and number to the productions of the famous agricultural States of Vera Cruz, Puebla and Oaxaca. The valley of Jala is famous for its great productiveness, the fertility of the soil of one bushel of corn is said to yield six hundredfold. Besides cereals, cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, coffee, beans, and rice grow luxuriantly. Agriculture is the chief industry of Nayarit, and corn and beans are raised in considerable quantities all over the State. Wheat and other cereals grow in the districts of Ahuacatlán and Tepic; rice in Compostela, Tepic, Ahuacatlán, and San Blas; cotton is Acaponeta and Santiago Ixcuintla; and coffee, tobacco, and sugar cane in all the districts of the State.

The best coffee lands are in the district of Compostela, in the southern portion of the State, and this finds its way to the markets of Europe and the United States. Rubber trees are found in their wild state, and are being tapped with profit. The soil is adapted for henequen, and is very suitable for the cultivation of the olive. Stock raising is carried on extensively, and there are some really large herds of cattle, sheep and goats.

The State has mineral resources of considerable extent, with several well-known mining camps. The principal of these are Santa Maria del Oro, with rich gold-silver veins. In the Acaponeta district, about 160 kilometers (112 miles) north of Tepic, copper, silver and lead are found, with some low-grade gold-silver ores. At Santiago Ixcuintla, about 60 kilometers (38 miles) northwest of Tepic and at Ixtlan, the same distance to the southeast, are old mines worked with modern methods. At Ahuacatlán, very near Ixtlan, there is gold. About 65 kilometers north of the city of Tepic is the Yaqui copper prospect, with copper, zinc, gold and silver.

Manufacturing to a noticeable degree is carried on, especially in the city of Tepic, where there are cotton mills, soap and other factories, with modern machinery and appliances.

San Blas, just west of the capital, is the chief seaport. It has a good-sized trade, both local and foreign, but the harbor facilities are not satisfactory, so that further great development can be expected only when these are improved, and when the railways are extended into closer touch with the interior.

The Southern Pacific Railroad Company of Mexico enters the State by its main line from Mazatlan and has been in operation as far as Tepic. Its plans are to continue through Ixtlan to reach Guadalajara. A line between San Blas and Tepic is proposed.

Cora, Huichol, Otomi and Pepehua are the native languages recognized.

The State is divided politically into 7 partidos, with 16 municipalities, containing 2 cities, 6 towns, 45 villages, 47 organized estates, and 1091 hamlets. The partidos are: Tepic, Acaponeta, Ahuacatlán, Compostela, Ixtlan, San Blas, Santiago Ixcuintla.

Tepic is the capital and principal city, and was founded in 1531 by Nuno de Guzman. It is beautifully situated on a broad plain at the foot of the volcano of Sanganguey and on the margin of the Tepic River, which empties into the Santiago. It has fine buildings, both public and private; a handsome theater, a cathedral, banks, and a number of very attractive plazas. It is about 800 kilometers (500 miles) from Mexico City, and has a population upward of 20,000.

Tepic and Its Wonderful Climate

The journey by diligencia from Santiago Ixcuintla to the city of Tepic is from ten to twelve hours' duration, a halt being made at early morning at the little hamlet of Navarette for a cup of coffee and a bite of food, though sometimes this is difficult of attainment, depending upon the mood of the woman who maintains a wayside posada at that place.

But though the road be long and rough and dusty, though one be hungry and weary and every bone ache with the jolting and jarring of the diligencia, it does not take long to remove all sense of discomfort and to become thoroughly rejuvenated in the cool, invigorating atmosphere and the delightful temperature of Tepic. A plunge into one of the incomparable baths fed with clear, sparkling water from numerous "ojos de agua," a satisfying meal at either of the two hotels which cater to foreigners especially, and then one is ready for a stroll about the streets of beautiful Tepic.

Lying in a hill-encompassed valley at an elevation of some 3000 feet, the waters of the Pacific Ocean only thirty miles or so distant, Tepic, with a population of some 20,000, has a climate that is unsurpassable. The period before the rainy season is declared by old residents to be the most disagreeable of all the year, yet the stranger who knows something of climatic conditions elsewhere will readily, without making any invidious comparisons, concede that while it may seem in some respects disagreeable to the residents, it assuredly is not so to the visitor who for the first time enjoys the pleasure of experiencing the invigorating climate of this city.

To begin with, it is never hot, as heat is known in the lowlands and in the dry, arid regions of the interior. Seldom does the temperature reach or exceed 80 degrees Fahrenheit, and the writer was much surprised to hear a citizen of this place remark one day upon what he called the excessive heat, when a glance at a thermometer showed that it was exactly 75 degrees Fahrenheit! There is scarcely a moment throughout the day when the sea breeze is not felt, while the evenings are charming to a degree and the nights so cool that one sleeps comfortably under one and sometimes two blankets the year round.

The morning hours are likewise delightful, and the early riser can enjoy to the fullest strolling about the city or going to some of the many points of vantage from which a view of the town and its surrounding valley may be had.

The people of Tepic do not know the meaning of the word frost, so far as any practical experience is concerned, but throughout the entire year there is the same evenness of temperature and lack of even an approach to an extreme of either cold or heat. The rainy season begins in the latter part of June and is over by the last of September, and old-timers declare that it is the pleasantest time of the year. But it would assuredly be difficult to find pleasanter climatic conditions than prevail during the month of May and the early part of June. And it would be well-nigh impossible to suggest any change that would make for the better.

Memorial Monument, Tepic

Place of Charming Scenery

Scenically, Tepic has a situation that is replete with interest. On three sides it is bounded by hills and mountains, while to the west a wide valley extends toward the Pacific Ocean. On the southwest is a lofty mountain spur called San Juan, while far to the east, across a great valley comprising thousands of acres of magnificent agricultural land, towers the old extinct volcano of Sanganguey. A notable feature of this dead volcano is a single shaft or peak with bell-shaped point towering above the broken walls of the crater and resembling almost exactly the peak that was thrust up in the center of Mount Pelee at the time of the disastrous eruption, in Martinique, which destroyed St. Pierre a dozen years ago.

To the northeast, one can trace the rugged lines of the Sierra Madre until lost in the distance, and so too in the south. Nearer the city in the north are low hills, at the foot of which flows the Tepic River, fed by numerous springs that are encountered everywhere in this favored region. Although it is at the close of the dry season and there has been no rain for months, there is a good head of water in the river, some of which is used for the irrigation of sugar cane and other crops on the hills and valleys to the north and northwest, but much of which goes to waste.

On the south side of the city is a low hill or mesa that is reserved for public use and which will doubtless some day be converted into a public park. From this slight elevation a fine view of the city and surrounding valley can be had, and it is a favorite resort for this purpose. The city is so situated that there is scarcely a street which does not present a beautiful vista in the distance, either of cultivated field, tree-embowered garden, rounding hill or rugged mountain. An artist could find subjects for his brush here for a life-time, without exhausting the field.

Cathedral Noteworthy Structure

The cathedral is the most noteworthy structure in the city, its tall, graceful towers reaching far above all other buildings and furnishing a landmark for miles in every direction. There are several plazas, which are embowered in flowers—indeed, flowers of all kinds are one of the strong points of the attractiveness of Tepic—while on the western side of the city is an Alameda of goodly proportions, filled with shade trees, shrubbery and blossoms of all kinds.

The great agricultural valley lying between the city and mountains to the east is the source of the Miravalles River at its southern end, while at its northern the Tepic River finds its head. The wagon road from Tepic to Compostela and other points along the coast to the south follows for many miles the canyon of this river, which at all times carries a large amount of water that might be, but is not, used for the cultivation of the thousands of acres of fine agricultural land that are subject to it.

The hills are low and rounding and the construction of irrigation canals does not present many obstacles, while the lands that could be irrigated could be made fourfold more fruitful than at present if they were supplied with a moderate amount of water during the dry season.

Some four or five hours' ride from Tepic down the valley of the Miravalles River is an interesting old hacienda from which the river takes its name. In turn, the hacienda was named from the Condesa de Miravalles, who came to this country from Spain over 300 years ago, was taken with its beauty and richness, and built the castle of Miravalles, which, partially ruined but now being restored, still stands as one of the most picturesque structures imaginable. Over the doorway is the coat-of-arms of the Miravalles family, still in almost perfect preservation, and at one end of the building is a chapel, which needs but slight repair to retain its state for years. There are few more interesting spots in the country than this.

Tepic's Fame Not Widespread

Because of its difficulty of access, there are few places of the importance and wealth of Tepic which are so little known outside of its immediate vicinity as this. Foreign pleasure-seekers have not yet sought it out to any extent, nor have foreign investors yet seemed to awaken to the golden opportunities that are here presented in many ways. Lands everywhere in this section are held in large tracts, and it is impossible to buy small farms.

CATHEDRAL FRONT

SCENE ON THE ALAMEDA

ENTRANCE TO PENITENTIARY

LAUNDRY WOMEN AT WORK

TEPIC

STATE PENITENTIARY

But people are gradually awakening to the manifold attractions of soil, climate and scenery that are possessed by this locality, and whenever some one with sufficient enterprise shall undertake the subdivision and colonization of some of these large tracts, a great stimulus will be given to growth, foreigners will flock in, and incidentally the subdivider will make a fortune from his enterprise and foresight.

Land values are not high, as they are regarded in California and other sections which make a boast of their climate—a boast, by the way, which can be discounted in this State. When an old Californian will concede that any climate can surpass that of his favorite State, it is pretty good proof of the excellence in that respect of the locality which he is praising. Yet I have heard old Californians declare with the greatest positiveness that the Golden State has nothing which can equal, let alone suprass, the climate of Nayarit. Neither California nor any other portion of the United States has soil that can equal that of this section, and for that matter of the greater share of the West Coast. And if the reader does not credit such a sweeping statement, let him come and see for himself.

Moderate Prices of Land

Lands can be bought in this territory for from $5 to $10 an acre, sometimes for even less than $5, which are at least the equal of any that are considered cheap at $100 to $300 an acre in California. And be it known that on these lands a crop failure is unknown; that there is in most cases an abundance of water available for irrigation at moderate cost, if desired; that any crop of the tropics or subtropics and most of those of the temperate zone can be successfully grown and profitably marketed; that one can harvest a crop every month in the year if so disposed, and that the conditions of a comfortable existence (with the single exception of a not numerous foreign population) are of the best.

The destiny of this city is to be an all-the-year health and pleasure resort, and for this purpose it is claimed by many that it surpasses far-famed Guadalajara. There is no necessity, however, for any rivalry, as there is abundance of room in this country for half a dozen Guadalajaras, where the weary and disease-stricken of all nations may find rest and seclusion from the cares and worries of life amid surroundings which cannot be surpassed from whatever standpoint they be considered.

Fine Field for Sportsmen

The sportsman as well as the health-seeker can find here that for which he is in search. In the mountains are deer, bear, turkey, quail, rabbits and other game. In the forests of the coast and foothill regions are tigers, pumas, and many other animals and birds peculiar to the tropics. On the rivers and estuaries are alligators, turtles, ducks, geese, and other feathered game in countless swarms. In the streams are fish of a dozen varieties, while along the coast are oysters in abundance and of a quality calculated to make one a coast dweller for at least six months of every year. The oysters, by the way, have been shipped to various portions of the United States and enjoy the highest reputation for size and quality.

The fact is, from whatever standpoint this portion of Mexico be considered—that of the investor, the farmer, the fruit grower, the stock raiser, the miner, the lumber man, the health and pleasure seeker, or what not—it will be found, on examination, to possess qualities of the most superlative degree and opportunities of all kinds of the utmost attractiveness and promise. The only wonder is that such opportunities should, as yet, have been taken advantage of to so small an extent.

In whatever direction one turns, one is confronted by the most promising channels for enterprise and investment, with an absolute certainty of an adequate and in most cases abundant reward. However, this will soon be a thing of the past, in large degree. With the advent of the railroad will come a great change, and, when it is too late, a lot of people will rub their eyes and wonder why they did not take advantage of some of the numerous openings that have been flaunting themselves in their faces for years.

The entire West Coast of Mexico is a veritable land of opportunities, such as the world has seldom presented—opportunities, too, which may be seized without the hardship of pioneer life incidental to the opening up of most "new" countries.

Provisional Governor Ferreira Outlines His Plans

Provisional Governor Ferreira, of the State of Nayarit, a short time since made a report of his work in that region to the National Government. In a letter written to Ambassador Bonillas of Washington, outlining the condition of affairs in the State named, he said that the chief object during his term of office had been the general improvement of this fabulously rich portion of the national territory, which had been more or less neglected, owing in part to the negligence of its inhabitants, but chiefly to the unfavorable financial policy of past dictatorial governments. Owing to the short time which he held office, as he was merely appointed Provisional Governor during the time necessary to call and hold a regular constitutional election, he was only able to carry out the preliminary studies of the various projects of reform and those which in his opinion urgently demanded the attention of the Government and which promised to be of inexhaustible benefit to the people. In his work he was greatly aided by several equally enthusiastic and patriotic assistants.

Chapel in Tepic Cemetery

Monument of Hidalgo

The financial feature of the government was the first naturally to receive attention. Its reorganization was difficult, since at the time when this State, then known as the Territory of Tepic, was a part of the Federation, the Federal Government was called upon to contribute $500,000 annually to meet the expenses. In 1912 the annual expenditure reached $790,000, but under Provisional Governor Ferreira's efficient management the expense was reduced to $409,184.50, or almost 50 per cent.

The next subject to receive attention was that of public instruction. A very adequate educational law was adopted and put into force and a normal school was inaugurated, thus providing for competent professors, who will conduct the educational system under the auspices of modern pedagogy.

One of the greatest wants of the State is adequate railroad facilities, and the Governor's report upon this subject is given herewith in full. The betterment of the Port of San Blas, the principal seaport of the State, also received attention and a report upon this subject was made. In concluding the letter referred to, the Governor stated:

"These two latter subjects—railways and port works—are those which it is most essential to have known outside of the Republic, where there are numerous and powerful enterprises which are always seeking for investment for their surplus, although it is to be regretted that we are obliged to look for foreign capital with which to promote new enterprise. I think that under the principles of the new Constitution, there does not exist the danger which was manifested during the administration of General Diaz, that foreigners will injure national interests by interfering in them."

Report to the National Secretary of State

"Profoundly touched by the urgent necessities of this State which require the attention of the National Government, I am convinced that one of the most important is without doubt that of the improvement of the Port of San Blas and its economic regulation. San Blas is one of the oldest ports in the Republic and the Spaniards of Nueva Galicia made it the base of their route which they established for trade with Asiatic countries. At present it does not meet the requirements of local commerce, owing to the neglected state in which it has been for many decades. Since the time of Santa Anna, in the year 1854, no other government has taken any interest in its development.

"NATURAL DEVELOPMENT.—It is well known beyond a doubt that one of the causes which prevent merchant vessels of great tonnage coming into ports of this character is the great difficulty met by such craft in loading and unloading merchandise. The depth of water is not great and therefore the commerce is reduced to a feeble coastwise trade, and these ports are kept in a stationary position. The former National Government which had engaged in the betterment of some of the ports did this with a view to the assistance of private enterprise, and never with the general purpose of benefiting the country at large. The Port of San Blas was regarded with disdain by the directors of the national policy, and there is documentary evidence that the Diaz régime viewed with suspicion any projects initiated here for the introduction of railroads, and for this reason this port was entirely abandoned so far as improvement was concerned, and slowly deteriorated until it reached the lamentable state in which it is at present, with the result that various foreign vessels which used to pay monthly visits have suspended their calls. Now that in all the branches of the Government a general and satisfactory advance is noted; now that the country needs to secure great resources in order to meet the enormous economic problems which have sprung up after the sorrowful but necessary period of civil war, the betterment of the port in question would enable the promotion of commercial movements in this region and would redound to the benefit of the National Treasury, while at the same time involving a comparatively insignificant outlay by comparison with the important works undertaken at other ports of the Republic. In consequence of this, and in accordance with the opinions of authorities on the subject, the necessary work to be done would, in my opinion, comprehend the following:

"In the passage of years the currents and floods from the drainage of adjacent shores have formed a bar whose removal is necessary. The use of a dredging machine for this purpose is the only feasible solution. The obstacles on the bar, as well as in the bay of San Blas, are formed by sand and alluvial mud, which makes the work of dredging easy. In order to prevent damage to the adjacent shores it will be necessary to protect them with loose stone work. A breakwater of stone at a fairly good depth is also necessary, beginning from a point at the north of the shore, curving around toward the bar until the depth of five fathoms is reached. The total length would be some three hundred meters, with a front of about one hundred and thirty-five cubic meters, besides the work necessary to protect the shore. The cost of this work, including the tools, portable railways, etc., three kilometers in length, would amount to about $350,000. It is calculated that some three hundred thousand cubic meters must be removed to a depth of 10 meters, and that the powerful dredge *Mexico,* now the property of the nation, could do this in a period of no more than one hundred days. This would permit the access of vessels up to ten thousand tons capacity. At a total expense of one million pesos in round numbers this port could be placed among those of the first class.

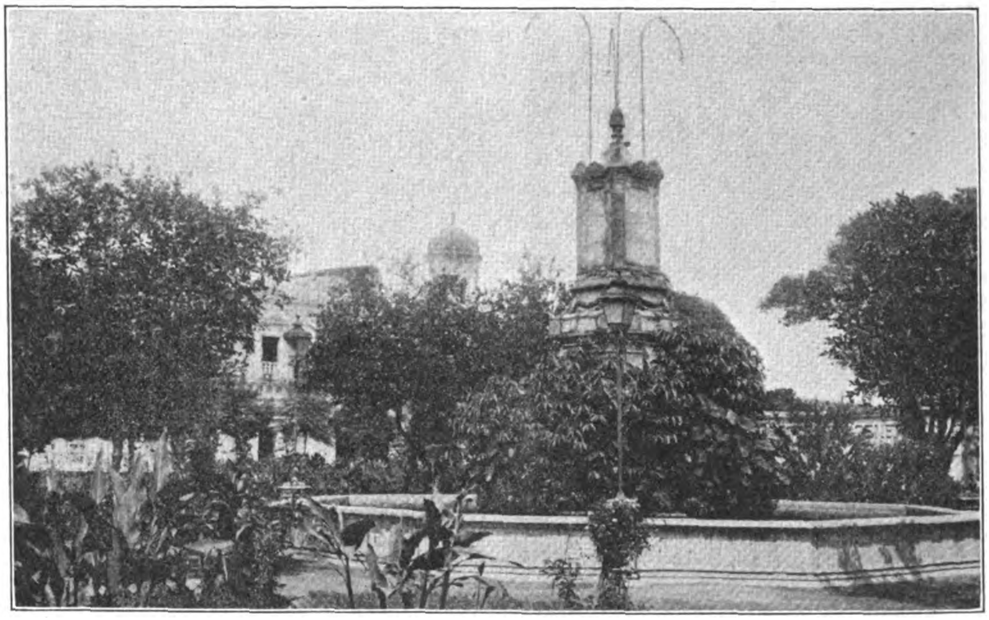
"ECONOMIC BETTERMENT.—All persons engaged in trading and carrying on business transactions in this State have found one of the principal difficulties in the exportation and importation of merchandise. Not only is it met in the unloading and loading in badly equipped ports, but in the high duties they are obliged to pay for imports or exports, after paying the very high prices of freighting, as all freight is carried on mule back in this State. In addition to this, it very often occurs that foreign vessels of importance refuse to take on board passengers or freight bound to San Blas, basing their negative upon the heavy duties of the customs authorities at this port. As a consequence, besides the hindrances met by the local authorities for the development of their business in such obstacles, they are required to become tributary to the market of Mazatlan, which has a fine port and splendid railroad facilities. The merchants of Nayarit, therefore, will never overcome these obstacles unless this abnormal situation is corrected. These inconveniences could be eliminated if the Executive of the Union by the legal means at his disposal would grant, as a special favor to San Blas, a reduction of the duties charged for customs inspection of ships, as well as the duties upon all kinds of merchandise in their importation and exportation. In this way they would compensate the excess in the freight expenses that those engaged in commerce have to pay on account of railroad transportation."

Governor Ferreira in concluding his statements asked the Secretary of State to give consideration to these reasons, and as a proof of his judicious sentiments towards the common welfare of the State to lend his valuable influence to this proposition, in order that the President of the Republic might consider it and provide the legal requisites for the performance of the above-mentioned improvements, both in the outlay demanded for the work of improving the port, as well as in the fiscal regulations of the customs rules, which, although they may appear objectionable because they affect laws which may be of a general order, in the opinion of the Governor are indispensable in this case.

The Railroad Situation

Governor Ferreira at the same time submitted to the Department of Communications and Public Works the following statement regarding the construction of railroads, which he considered urgently needed:

"The construction of three main lines of railway is urgently needed in the State. These may be divided into two different classes, those of urgent necessity and those of secondary importance. First, it is of urgent necessity that branches starting from the cities of Tepic and Santiago should reach the Port of San Blas, connecting with each other at a point near the Hacienda of Navarrete. The railroad which will connect the capital city with San Blas would only require the construction of 83 kilometers, while the branch connecting the point called La Presa, adjoining Santiago Ixcuintla, with the main line, would only require 16 kilometers of construction. The cost of this work would be insignificant, because the roadbed built in 1884 by the Central Railway could be utilized. This company constructed in good shape 57 kilometers of roadbed, including in the work matters of such vital importance as filling embankments, culverts, cuts, bridges, etc. These works are still in good condition and with slight repair could be put into a state to have the rails laid immediately. The 26 kilometers which must still be built in order to connect with the city of Tepic are in the foothills and would not offer great difficulties for construction. The branch to Santiago would be a very short one and it would not present physical obstacles of any importance.



Plaza in City of Tepic, State of Nayarit

"ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE.—The economic importance of this railroad is evident because the zone that it would cross would be that of Santiago, which is extremely fertile. In this region all the inter-tropical products are raised and there will be without doubt a large surplus for exportation. The principal wealth of this region is found in the cultivation of corn, which has made a large development. Next in importance comes tobacco, which is produced on an extensive scale, the climate being most appropriate for it, while the soil is of a sandy character, very rich in potassium. Cotton is largely grown and is now one of the raw materials in greatest demand on the market, and is extensively produced on this coast. Beans, rice, garbanzas and other cereals are largely produced. The coquito nut is raised with very good results and gives wonderful harvests on account of the saline atmosphere and the character of the soil upon which it is raised. Salt works, shrimp fisheries, etc., are also a source of great wealth, as well as fine cabinet woods which are found in abundance throughout the forests.

"Political Importance.—The isolation in which the people of the principal towns of this State have always lived has resulted in the political education of the people being of a heterogeneous character. The binding of these cities with the capital would co-ordinate the political tendencies of each region until their unification is reached. Furthermore, the independence given to the municipalities by the Constitutional Government would isolate them from the capital in such a way that the bonds of solidarity and harmony established by the public law would not remain, because there are very important municipalities which, owing to the distance from the capital and for lack of good roads uniting them therewith, remained a long time without any communication and their political relations with the Government therefore offered serious disturbances. The mail service is either irregular or does not exist, and in many cases which demand immediate solution and for which there is not any legal proof, they must decide without consulting beforehand with the Executive of the State and must afterwards give an account of such happenings, which, in many cases, are entirely in opposition to the very tendencies of the administration. The construction of this branch would eliminate all these inconveniences for reasons which I consider too obvious to explain.

Street Scene in Tepic City

"Strategic Importance.—As the railroad of whose construction I am now speaking would put the capital in contact with a productive region par excellence, thus facilitating naturally the securing of food in rapid form in pressing cases, it would assure the dominance of the Government over all those regions that, owing to the denseness of their forests and to their mountainous character, offer shelter and hiding places to bands of systematic robbers.

"Secondary Roads.—Of this character including among roads of the secondary class, I place a branch from Santiago Ixcuintla to Tuxpam on the coast, and another one which, starting from San Blas, would run across the Valle Banderas and would terminate at the port of Las Peñas, in the State of Jalisco.

"Construction.—The construction of these branches, as well as those referred to in previous paragraphs, could be carried out with great economy, since the roads would run through a region very appropriate to the laying of the tracks, and also with very few rivers or broken country to traverse. The rich forests existing in this section would furnish the very best of wood necessary for the ties at the very lowest prices, as well as all other material to be used in construction of stations, bridges, etc.

"Economic Importance.—From an economic point of view both branches would in a very short time give satisfactory results. First, from the fact that in uniting Tuxpam and Santiago Ixcuintla they would cross a region well noted because of the abundance of shell fish, for the good quality of the cattle which are raised upon a large scale on these rich grazing lands, and for the inexhaustible amount of cabinet and construction timber found in the forests. The second branch—that is to say, the one extending from San Blas and running along the coast until the port of Las Peñas is reached—would be another line of great economic importance, because in passing the foot of the western slopes of San Juan Mountain it offers great advantage to agriculture and mining and would render possible the exploitation of large areas of land now unimproved, and which would assure an enormous production from their fertile soil. The slopes of this mountain are well calculated for the cultivation of corn, while the heights afford excellent cabinet and construction woods. In this region many mining camps of importance are already found, counting among them those of Huicicila and Compostela. The roads now connecting these centers are very devious, and owing to this fact agriculture and mining have not properly developed. The same fact is true with regard to the excellent coffee raised on the haciendas of Malinal, Ixtapa, de la Concepcion and La Palma, whose products cannot find their way out by reason of lack of means of transportation.

"Political Importance.—The same reasons may be cited in support for the construction of this branch as for the building of the line from Tepic to San Blas, with the advantage that the latter makes communication possible with the other ports of the Republic.

"Strategic Importance.—The strategic importance of the branch to Tuxpam is very considerable, but this line, which would unite two important ports of the Pacific, will connect the respective authorities with an extensive mountainous region, very large and productive valleys, and with a large number of towns and villages which up to the present time have been isolated from the Government, and therefore have not yet started in the pathway of administrative order.

"From what I have already mentioned it is demonstrated that the lines above described are of vital importance from any point of view. Their construction does not demand large expenditures of money, while the great benefits derived from them would more than compensate for the energies and efforts expended in their building."

State Finances—An Economical Showing

The total expenses of the State for the year are given by Governor Ferreira as follows:

Congress	$27,375.00
Secretary to Congress	4,854.50
Government	10,329.50
Secretarial Department	26,542.50
Director of Taxes	24,665.00
Expenses of tax collection	10,000.00
Expenses of Foreign Office	4,836.25
State Treasury	8,895.00
Public Minister	9,380.50
Defense of the Poor	1,460.75
Local Agrarian Commission	6,551.75
Penitentiary	10,122.50
State Telephone	3,130.00
Public Printing	4,315.00
Civil Hospital	26,365.75
Asylum for the Poor	11,275.00
General exp. of the Administration	57,650.00
School Inspection	7,665.00
Primary Instruction	82,453.50
Expenses of Instruction	22,600.00
Supreme Court	7,665.00
Lower Courts	32,412.00
Medical Service	5,840.00
Expenses of Justice	2,800.00
Total	$400,184.50

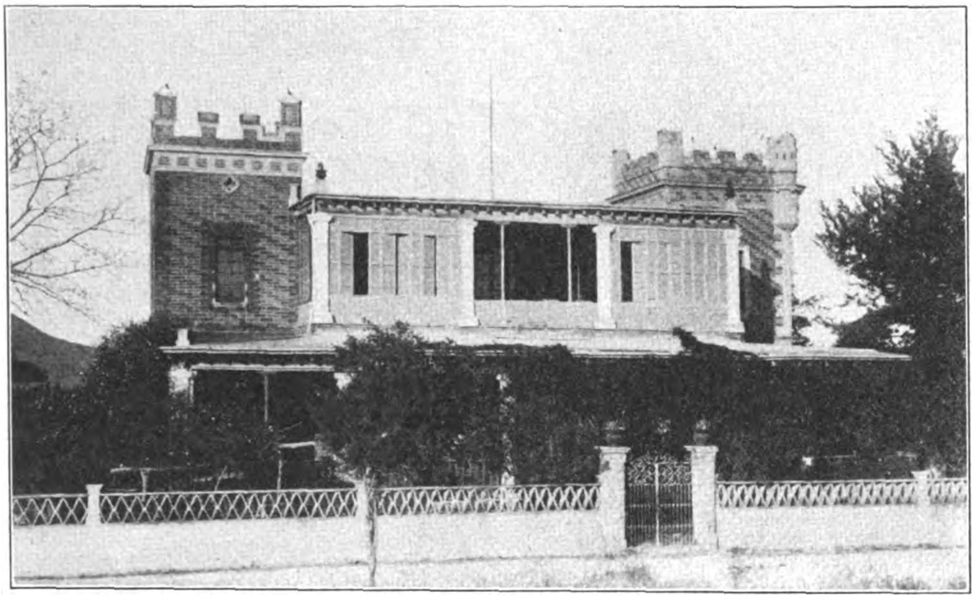
It will be observed that a total of $112,718.50 was devoted to educational matters, or considerably over one-fourth of the entire amount expended in public purposes.

The Electric Railway Company, a foreign institution, which controls the entire street car system of Mexico City and its suburbs, has filed a petition with the authorities for permission to *reduce the rates of passage* hitherto in effect. This is believed to be the first time in the history of such concerns that an application of this kind has ever been presented.

Mexico's Monetary System

Larger Specie Reserve Needed—Also Adequate Provision for the Redemption of Subsidiary Silver Coinage

RADICAL and far-reaching changes in Mexico's monetary system are proposed in a report made by E. W. Kemmerer, professor of economics in Princeton University, who has completed an exhaustive study of the financial situation in that country at the request of that Government. Among other reforms, Professor Kemmerer advocates raising the gold unit value in Mexico so that it will be substantially above the bullion value of the silver peso. It is pointed out that as soon as these silver coins are worth more as money or circulating media than as bullion their melting or exportation will cease and one of Mexico's greatest problems will be solved.



Private Residence in Tepic City

Professor Kemmerer makes the point that the most important single problem in the reorganization of Mexico's currency system is that relating to the method which should be adopted for the maintenance of the parity of the various kinds of coins with the unit of 75 centigrams of pure gold established by the currency law of March, 1905. The present necessity, growing out of the high price of silver, of recoining silver coins with a substantially lower pure silver content involves the whole subject of the proper machinery for maintaining the parity of silver coins with gold. The proposed new lighter coins, according to Professor Kemmerer, should not be introduced into circulation until an adequate gold reserve for their redemption is established. The continuance of the gold standard and the maintenance of the parity with the gold peso of all the different kinds of coins require, first, the free coinage of gold; second, the restricted coinage of fiduciary coins; third, the proper regulations to adjust the supply of fiduciary coins to trade needs, and, fourth, an adequate gold reserve.

Gold Standard Principle

"The principle of the gold standard," says Professor Kemmerer in his report, "is that the value of gold coins as bullion and their value as money should be the same. Under a strict gold standard gold coins should never be appreciably more valuable than the gold bullion they contain, plus a charge merely sufficient to cover the actual expenses of coinage; and they should never be appreciably less valuable than the gold bullion they contain, less the expenses of melting and converting into bars. These conditions can only be realized (1) when the mints are open to the public for free coinage of gold, so that any holder of gold bullion can have it converted into coin within a reasonable time, on demand, and (2) when the exportation of gold from the country is permitted. If coinage is not free, the value of gold coins, under pressure of increasing currency demands, tends to become greater than the value of the bullion which they contain, and thus the unit of value is raised, and the gold standard is, to that extent, departed from. If, on the other hand, the exportation of gold coin is not permitted, the amount of gold in circulation tends to become relatively redundant under the influence of declining currency demands, exchange rates become strongly unfavorable to the country and the coins depreciate in terms of foreign gold (namely, as measured by the foreign exchange rates), which means a depreciation in the unit of value. It will probably be wise as soon as monetary conditions in Mexico and abroad become normal, to remove the existing prohibition against the exportation of Mexican gold coin.

"A second postulate of the gold standard is the limited coinage of fiduciary coins, namely, in Mexico, of the peso fuerte, fractional silver coins, and minor coins of nickel and copper. Unless the supplies of these coins are strictly limited and kept within the bounds of trade needs, they will deplete the country's gold reserve, and denude its circulation of gold coin. Great care must be taken that fiduciary coins are not issued in excess. This caution gives rise to the third requirement of the gold standard, namely, proper regulations to adjust the supply of fiduciary coins to trade needs."

Reserve Must Be Adequate

The fourth requirement for the maintenance of the parity of Mexican silver coins with gold, according to Professor Kemmerer, is the establishment of an adequate gold reserve, which may be called "the gold standard reserve."

"A gold standard reserve in a country like Mexico," he says, "which has a large circulation of fiduciary money, performs two important functions, the second of which is essentially the corollary of the first. They are (1) the automatic adjustment of the currency supply to the demands of trade and (2) the creation and maintenance of public confidence in the fiduciary currency.

"Currency performs its chief function in serving as the medium for the exchange of goods and services; directly, in passing from hand to hand, and indirectly, in constituting bank reserves which support bank deposits, the titles of which pass from hand to hand in the form of bank checks. In a given state of banking and credit development, and with a given amount of business, a country needs a certain quantity of money for the effecting of its exchanges at a price level which is in equilibrium with the price levels of competing countries.

"If a country, say Mexico, has less money than is needed, the law of supply and demand will operate to depress prices below the price levels of nearby countries, and, temporarily, to raise short-time interest rates, with the result that, since money is more valuable in Mexico than, say, in the United States, exchange rates in Mexico on New York will rise, and gold will flow toward Mexico (as it is tending to do at the present time) until an equilibrium in the price levels of the two countries is again reached.

"If, on the other hand, there is too much money in circulation relative to trade needs—a condition which may result from an excessive issue of money or from a decline or depression in business—the law of supply and demand again operates and makes the money which has become relatively redundant (i. e., redundant as compared with trade needs) cheap. In other words, the law of supply and demand operates to force up prices of sensitive commodities and, temporarily, to depress short-time interest rates, with the result that exchange rates turn against the country and the excess money seeks an outlet in exportation. Money, like everything else, seeks the best market. But fiduciary silver money can not be exported, for under normal conditions it has a much higher value at home as money than it has abroad as silver. To melt it down for exportation involves loss. Accordingly, therefore, it is only gold coin or its equivalent, gold bars—the money of international trade—that flows out of the country at times when the currency in circulation becomes redundant. If there is not such an outflow of money in times of currency redundancy, the increasing excess of the currency supply over trade needs depresses the value of the monetary unit and ultimately results in the breakdown of the gold standard. It is only through the automatic adjustment of the currency supply to the demands of trade that the gold parity can be maintained; for relative excess means depreciation and relative scarcity means appreciation."

Advocates 35 Per Cent Reserve

Mexico's gold reserve, in Professor Kemmerer's opinion, should be sufficient to provide for the absorption through redemption of any silver coin in circulation which may be rendered excessive by the usual seasonal fluctuations in business. It should be large enough to do this, and, in addition, to afford a reasonable margin of safety for extraordinary emergencies. In a country like Mexico, with its great variety of natural resources, with its varied climatic conditions and with a climate which nearly everywhere makes possible the raising of crops throughout the year, the seasonal fluctuations in business activity are not so great as in countries less favorably situated. Therefore, other things being equal, a smaller gold reserve would be needed in a country like Mexico than in one like Canada to absorb this excess circulation. On the other hand, the fluctuations in trade demands for currency in Mexico are apparently irregular and less easily anticipated and measured than are the periodical seasonal movements in countries like the United States and Canada.

"In the light of the experience of other countries," Professor Kemmerer continues, "the experience of Mexico prior to the revolution, and in the light of the present lack of confidence in fiduciary money in Mexico arising out of the paper money experience of the last three years, it would seem to be unsafe to inaugurate the new coinage system with a smaller reserve than 35 per cent, while 40 per cent would be a safer figure.

"It is probable, however, that within a few years after confidence has been restored and business and banking have resumed their normal proportions, a reserve of 30 per cent will be adequate for Mexico."

Professor Kemmerer believes that the largest part of the proposed Mexican reserve should be in the form of gold, and only a small part in silver. He proposes that a portion of this reserve be kept in New York or London, to be drawn against or increased by additional deposits in the settlement of the international trade balance. If the balance of trade were running against Mexico, this could be settled by drawing on the Mexican gold reserve in New York, thus eliminating the actual shipment of the gold. In the same way, should the balance of trade be running in favor of Mexico, the account could be settled without the need of gold shipments to Mexico.

Sonora Coal Deposits

Leased by an American Company and Development to Be Undertaken on a Large Scale at Once

A RECENT dispatch from Tucson says that the Carlos F. Johnson semi-anthracite coal land, three miles northeast of Ortiz, Sonora, has been leased for 99 years with an option to purchase for cash at the end of five years for $3,000,000, by E. P. Spalding, of New York, and associates.

Arrangements will be made for a 30-mile extension of the Southern Pacific of Mexico to tap the field, with the result that tonnage can be sent to the United States through the Nogales gateway as well as through Guaymas up to the Pacific Coast and down to the Panama Canal zone.

CALLE DE JUAREZ-TEPIC. MEX-39
EL LAZO MERCANTIL
GABRIEL CORTES

One of the Principal Streets in Tepic City

The Carlos F. Johnson coal land is well known among coal operators of the United States, but for several reasons it was thought impossible to open it.

What Workings Show

The veins cover an area of 32 square miles. There are a number of prospect holes on the property which show coal, but only three distinct shafts to depth. The most important of these is the shaft at El Salto, which is down 400 feet. There is also included in the records secured from Hermosillo officials, the log of a bored hole sent down 460 feet at El Salto. At 80 feet this bore cut a vein six feet thick, at 271 feet it cut a second vein seven feet thick, and at 393 feet it cut a vein 22 feet wide, giving a total indication of 35 feet of coal. How wide the veins are remains to be proved.

The test of the coal shows 81.56 free carbon, 85 fixed carbons, 10 volatile matter in some places and from 5 to 7 per cent elsewhere.

Owner Receives Royalty

The whole field will be subjected to exploration with diamond drills for at least one year before shipping is started. During this time preparations for the railway will be made.

The semi-anthracite at El Salto is in a district where there is a folding of the dyke and it is hoped that the drills will show up deposits of bituminous and coking coal, which will add considerably to the assets of the property.

The contract calls for payments from time to time to the owner. He does not lose title to his property unless the operators decide to purchase outright. Under the contract he receives 15 cents per mined ton.

Johnson Owned Forty Years

The land has been in the possession of Carlos Johnson for nearly 40 years. For political reasons the Johnsons finally left Sonora for good and settled in Tucson. Thereafter companies were formed to operate the land, but met with poor success. The last company was the Carlos F. Johnson Coal Mining and Development Company, composed of George Atkinson and others, who planned to sell 40 per cent of the stock locally, but failed.

At this point Mr. Spalding entered the bidding and after three months of investigation and conferences, closed the contract.

Geographically, the land is located three miles northeast of Ortiz and 60 miles from Guaymas.

Reports from Guanajuato state that under the administration of Governor Alcocer, the mines of that section have resumed operations, thousands of men have found profitable employment and conditions generally have been greatly ameliorated. Many new schools have been established, notably several which are opened at night for the workingmen. A school of agriculture has also been established and many other public improvements made.

Mexican Music Entrancing

One of the Leading Factors in Both Ancient and Modern Life—A Nation of Music Lovers and Composers

MISS LOUISE RONSTADT, IN "MEFISTOFELES"

MUSIC has always been an important factor in Mexico. In fact the ancient Aztecs made music a part of their religious services. At an annual festival a youth was sacrificed to the Goddess of Music. It is related that their music was full of barbaric pomp, and possessed a strange, rhythmic style. Instruments of percussion like bells and rattles were used, accompanied by singing and dancing.

Later on the tribes began to use the "marimba," flageolets, wood flutes and pottery whistles of grotesque shapes, with reed instruments of unique form. Some claim that the ancient Mexicans had a scale which can be reproduced on an organ with fixed pipes, but this is not authentic. Their vocal music was sung in unison, and though somewhat monotonous, was melancholy in style. Information regarding the ancient music is meager, as nearly all their historical records were destroyed by the neighboring tribes who conquered them, and later by the Spaniards. Mexico has not much of what we call folk music. The ancient native music was chanted or hummed, and was somewhat monotonous.

After the entrance of the Spaniards, the music of the natives began to develop and acquire more scope; native composers were soon in evidence, who wrote the most charming little waltzes, danzas, and romanzas, light music abounding in melody and rhythm, with not much depth, but through it all ran the sad, sweet strain of the music of their forefathers. The Mexicans are so musical that it is hard to explain it to those who have not lived there. There is hardly a family, no matter how poor, which does not possess a mandolin or a guitar. In the evening, after the peon's work is done, he will sit in his little "patio" (yard) and play and sing. The better families all possess a piano and one or more string instruments. Every town, large or small, has its plaza with a pavilion in the center, and an orchestra plays there every evening. In some of the larger towns this custom is followed during the afternoons also.

In this respect, Mexico is far more advanced than our country. For here, it is only since the recent propaganda of community music that we have tried to support bands and orchestras in every town. In Mexico this has always existed.

Plaza in City of Jalisco, State of Nayarit

Comparisons are sometimes odious, but I cannot refrain from comparing some of Mexico's cultured acquirements and talents with our own. Here the average person does not know anything about classical music, and really does not seem to want to know it, strongly preferring "ragtime." In Mexico City one hears the humblest newsboy whistling arias from "La Bohème," "Traviata," "Rigoletto," and "Carmen," and likewise the vegetable man and the pastry seller.

Our popular music bears no resemblance whatsoever to our classical compositions. In Mexico the style of the popular music is based on the classical and abounds in beautiful melody. However, this is perhaps characteristic of all Latin races. They love to sing, and into their music, whether it be gay or tragic, they pour all the intensity of their southern temperament. To the Anglo-Saxon (accustomed by inheritance to moderation in all things, this emotional expression sometimes seems overdone; but in tropical surroundings, with vivid skies, florid architecture, brilliant flowers and gay-colored clothes, it appears spontaneous and appropriate.

To sit in the plaza of some quaint Mexican town, on a starry, flower-perfumed evening, is to realize the significance of impassioned utterances. One's blood is fired by the entrancing melodies which float from the orchestra in the central pavilion, and the groups of gaily dressed people are a delight to the eye. The "serenade" is one of the most romantic customs in Mexico, and was introduced by the early Spaniards. It is indescribable, the feeling one experiences to be awakened from a deep slumber by the sweet strains of a guitar and more often by an orchestra. This custom still prevails.

It is conceded by the great teachers of the world that the Mexicans are the best interpreters of music, and while Mexico has not yet given to the world a great artist on string instrument, she has given a singer who was the greatest in all the world, Angela Peralta. Some time ago, at a singing contest, where all the great vocalists were gathered, when Patti finished her song (so the story goes) she turned to Peralta and said, "That is the way they sing in Milan." But when Peralta had finished her song, Patti remarked, "That is the way they sing in heaven."

Mexico has given to the world composers who have created great sensations not only in their country, but also in Europe—Jose Carrillo, Manuel Ponce (known as the Mexican Chopin), Ricardo Castro, Fraga, and others too numerous to mention here. Jose Carillo, who has been recently leading an orchestra of note in New York, has revolutionized the old system of writing in Theory and Composition. He has proven his solutions are correct and they have been accepted by the great writers of today. In Mexico City is a wonderful temple built to the Muse of Music, "The Conservatory of Music." This institution is supported by the Government, and within these sacred walls is the one place in the Republic where all meet on an equal footing. Caste is not recognized there—only Genius. When students indicate unusual talent, they are sent to Europe to finish their studies at the expense of the Government. Mexico supports an opera company all the year around. The Grand Opera Company, which has just closed a remarkable season in Mexico, had to be changed from the Opera House to the "Plaza de Toros," the crowds were so great. What do you think of a cast of 600 members accompanied nightly by an orchestra of 150 pieces and singing to an audience nightly of 18,000 and over? The Mexicans are enthusiastic in their appreciation of good music. They reward artists by throwing flowers, jewels and money at their feet, but woe to the one who does not rise to their high conception of what constitutes a good singer or instrumentalist. Mexico possesses the next to the greatest Opera House in the world, the other being in Paris.

Mexico has no particular school of music, but is fast developing one. Democracy is the mother of free and beautiful expression, and by establishing ideals of democracy, Mexico is bound to develop all the characteristics necessary to establish an individual type of her own.

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

IX

The Interesting Process of Manufacturing Candles

BETWEEN the house of "El Gringo"—that ancient structure in which he never went to sleep without picturing in his mind the heroic fight put up in the very room in which he slept, between four brave patriots intrenched therein and upward of 200 enemies, howling on the outside for their blood—and his private settee in the shade of the chinaberry tree, were several places of business of one kind and another. Among these was one where the stranger often halted to watch the industry therein carried on and to exchange a few words of greeting with the genial, gray-haired man who constituted in his own person the proprietor, manager, foreman and entire working force of a candle manufactory. In his younger days in a pioneer community it had been one of "El Gringo's" "chores" to assist in the preparation of the battery of tin molds, the tying of the wicks to the wooden cross pieces, and the pouring of the melted tallow, by which slow and laborious process candles were evolved—the only means of illumination known at that time, which was before the "invention" of petroleum as an illuminant.

But this Cuatro Cienegas candle manufactory was of a different type. A great empty room, perhaps 20 or 24 feet square, opened off the street with a wide double door. With the exceptions to be described, it was entirely without furniture or appliances of any kind. Into a massive beam overhead at a spot in the exact center of the high ceiling, was fastened an iron swivel hook which turned freely in any direction. From this hook several heavy cords made of ixtli fiber spread in cone-shaped fashion and were attached to a great wooden hoop that completely filled the room, with the exception, of course, of the corners. This hoop was suspended in an exactly horizontal position at a height of about four feet above the floor, and a single motion of the hand could send it spinning around and around until one became dizzy watching it, if he so wished.

At intervals of about six inches apart, coarsely and loosely spun bits of cotton cordage were tied to the hoop, which was of very light material, and hung down some 10 inches or thereabouts. On a box in one corner of the room where the curve of the hoop left considerable space, the proprietor-manager-foreman-working force sat. Just in front of him was a brasero with a small charcoal fire supporting an earthen vessel filled with melted tallow. Any kind of animal fat answered the purpose. With a ladle in one hand, the candlemaker turned the hoop a trifle with the other until one of the dependent wicks was exactly over the tallow-filled vessel. Then he filled the ladle and poured it on the upper end of the wick, allowing the liquid to run down into the vessel, during which process a small quantity congealed and remained adhering to the wick. After many operations of this kind the tallow began to assume something of the proportions of a candle, but it required hours of patient toil, and continuous turning and ladling and pouring, before a candle of proper size was at last produced. These were not symmetrical in shape, as when cast in a mold, but when completed were about the diameter of an ordinary lead pencil at the top, gradually increasing in size until at the lower end they were an inch or so in thickness. The melted tallow being hot when applied at the upper extremity of the candle, ran rapidly downward, but cooled quickly in the process, thus causing the candle to become much thicker at the base than at the top. After the candles had attained a sufficient size they were detached from the hoop, the base was cut off squarely with a sharp knife, and then they were ready for sale in the market. As these brought a very low price by comparison with the imported articles made of paraffin or other substances, it was very plain to me that the pathway to wealth followed so earnestly by this gray-haired manager-proprietor-foreman-working force would be a very long one. It is possible that he may have realized a profit of as much as a dollar daily, but of this I have serious doubts, as the entire output of the factory for a day could have been easily carried away in a man's arms. Many weary hours were required in order to produce a single batch of candles, but the jolly manufacturer never seemed to tire of his task, while his friends happened along with regularity and halted for a bit of gossip or to smoke a cigarette with him, thus helping the time to pass.

Something About Matches

Of cognate character was a match manufactory. Mexican-made matches, as most people are perhaps not aware, are an entirely different thing from the ordinary match of the rest of the world. The average Mexican match is an inch to an inch and a quarter in length. It is made with a cotton cord coated with melted wax and is about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. It is doubled-headed, that is, has phosphorus at each end, and every match may be used twice. One can light a cigarette or a cigar, or start a fire, then extinguish the flame, return the match to the box and preserve it for the next time. Being constituted as they are, these matches can be used in the open air with much more assurance than the ordinary imported wooden match. They can be lighted and will remain burning in the face of a very strong wind, which with the other variety of match would be impossible. In the majority of factories these matches are made by machines, but in small towns everything is done by hand. The raw cotton is spun into threads and dozens of girls and boys are employed in the slow and laborious work of molding and tipping the matches.

Speaking of matches, by the way, it is within the memory of people still living that such things were not known, and the old-fashioned flint and steel were the sole dependence for starting a fire. The story is told that when matches were first imported an enterprising storekeeper laid in a supply and endeavored to introduce them to his customers. One day an old chap from a ranch some 20 or 25 miles distant dropped in and the dealer produced some of the wonderful novelties. He emphasized the ease with which a light could be obtained in comparison with the slow process of flint and steel, and as an illustration casually scratched a match on the leg of his trousers, saying: "See how easily you can get a light with one of these matches!" But the ranchero demurred and could not be persuaded. "You say it will save time? Not so! How could I come to town and have you make a light on your trousers leg every time I wanted a fire? No, no; I will use my flint and steel!"

A Novel but Enjoyable Bath in a Bottomless Pit

"Let us go for a bath!"

To "El Gringo," sitting in the shade of the chinaberry tree in the plaza at Cuatro Cienegas, came two friends with this proposal.

Now, an invitation of that kind may seem a trifle odd and mystifying to the stranger. Asking an acquaintance to "take a drink" or "have a smoke" is common enough in any portion of the world, but to invite one to take a bath might seem to open the way to some invidious comment, or possibly it might even be resented! Especially if a bath really were needed!

Not so in Cuatro Cienegas, as will be seen!

It is getting late in the fall. The torrid heat of the summer sun is tempered by the delightful breezes that blow up and down the valley—in one uniform direction by day and in the opposite course after nightfall. The delicious grapes and other fruits produced here in abundance are at their best and we revel in them day after day. Such juicy fruit of the vine, such luscious figs, such pears and plums and peaches, and what not! A few leaves are falling—but only a few. In a land where comes not either frost or hail or snow, and only on rare occasions any rain—or if it does it is so gentle as not to be unwelcome—there are no sharp changes of the seasons. They melt into one another so gradually that the summer is past and gone, the harvest is over and done, autumn is in full tide, the "winter" even comes, and we only know it by the calendar and by the advent of All Souls' Day—Mexico's national Decoration Day—and by the coming of Noche Buena, or Christmas, later on.

It is a lovely, genial mid-October forenoon, and the invitation to a bath comes to willing ears.

But the reader must not be mistaken about it! A bath here in the United States and one in Cuatro Cienegas are vastly different things from what one might suppose. About the only similarity is that both are wet! In other respects it would be difficult to imagine anything at greater variance from the rule in such matters.

First, we hustle about for towels, then start on a little journey of a dozen or so miles out into the barren valley, hiring a "coach" and a couple of tough little mules for the occasion. "Machines" are an unknown quantity at this time and in this region.

First we drive through the vineyard-covered outskirts of the town, raising several coveys of fat quail as we pass; but we do not stop for the tempting shot, as we are intent on bathing and not on hunting. Then rapidly through a belt of fertile farming land, and then finally out into the unsettled valley prairies, where thousands of acres are covered with a snow-white efflorescence interspersed with "sinks" heavily encrusted with varicolored crystallizations. We cross the "Salon de las Brujas"—which, being interpreted, resolves itself into "The Dancing Place of the Witches"—an appropriate designation, as will be explained. It being broad daylight, none of the "witches" are in evidence! It is only after nightfall that they disport themselves! Then, across the solidly encrusted ice-like surface of the salon, the brisk wind brings little twisting columns of the loose white salts, which flit hither and yon over the rolling valley surface and require little enough imagination on the part of the superstitious natives to become endowed with supernatural and malicious life. Especially if the native be returning home after a day spent among the wine cellars or cantinas of Cuatro Cienegas and many "copitas" have been absorbed of the heady but, it must be confessed, in many cases appetizingly seductive products of the vineyards.

Beyond the resort of the putative witches the road winds endlessly on and on toward the distant purple hills, which do not seem to become one whit nearer even after an hour or two of steady jogging travel. Mesquite thickets line the road and give shelter to a frequent rabbit or a bunch of quail or some doves, while from some overflowed land in the distance rise swarms of ducks and geese, which promise "good hunting" when the occasion offers. Then out from the thickets we pass onto a level plain covered with coarse clumps of sedge grass, through which we wind our way until the bathing place is reached. If it be the first visit of a stranger, it is an odd enough experience. If, however, he be familiar with the wonderful natural phenomenon that greets the eye, it still is of interest. One never tires of it.

Suddenly and without any sort of warning the coach halts on the brink of as strange and wonderful a pool as can be imagined. All around is dry and barren, yet here is a circular basin, some 150 feet in diameter, rounded as if laid out by an engineer. The brown sedge grass hangs heavy over the brim, and there is a straight drop of three or four feet to the surface of the water. And that water! Blue it is as the sky! Blue as indigo! And as the wind ruffles across its surface, if it be a cool day, light clouds of vapor arise and are borne hither and thither, for the water is hot —hot as blazes! At the edges the pool is two or three feet in depth, but the bottom slopes with the most perfect regularity at an angle of about forty-five degrees to the center, and it is snow white! A pure dazzling white, which, with the deep blue of the water, presents a most entrancing picture. Away down deep in the center, many, many feet below the surface, is a ragged crater-like opening through which pours a constant supply of water from the depths below, whose extent can be gauged by the fact that through an open cut at one side a ditch passes which is some six feet in width and carries a flow two feet deep.

The bottom and sides of the pool are, as stated, snow white in color. The substance of which they are composed is smooth and greasy to the touch, and upon examination is found to consist largely of minute spiral shells, many of microscopic dimensions. In some places the deposit has a beautiful light salmon color of the most delicate hue. There is not a particle of grit and the material may be used instead of soap, possessing remarkable detergent qualities. One plasters it liberally upon his entire body, and then plunges into the hot water of the pool, the result being a most satisfactory and beneficial bath. There is only one drawback: one never knows when to quit! The whole sensation is so agreeable and so different from anything of the sort ever before encountered, that it is with reluctance you finally, after playing about in the water for an hour or more, emerge, don your clothes and regretfully turn Cuatro Cienegasward.

While no analysis of this water has ever been made, so far at least as the writer knows, it has been demonstrated to possess curative properties of value. The famous General Escobedo, one of Benito Juarez's most valiant and valuable aids in his revolutionary war, sought refuge at one time in this valley and remained there for a considerable period. Being afflicted with a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, and hearing the fame possessed among the natives by the pool, he established a camp on the bank of the basin. A rude stone hut (still standing, by the way, in a ruinous condition) was thrown up, and a channel was excavated from the pool to the building, in order to conduct the water thither. In the floor of the hut a deep basin was hollowed out in the solid rock, and into this a constant stream of the hot water passed. The sufferer was accustomed to recline in this basin for hours at a time, in fact the entire day being passed in this manner, thus soaking his pain-wracked body until it must have been completely saturated. The result was that in a few weeks the military leader was entirely restored to health and was again able to take the field. Since that time the pool has been generally known as the "Baths of Escobedo," and the natives come from far and wide to lave in its waters, as well as to thoroughly cleanse anything of a textile nature that needs renovation, with the least possibly outlay of time and labor.

And of such is the bath that "El Gringo" was invited to enjoy by his friends in Cuatro Cienegas! And did enjoy it many times!

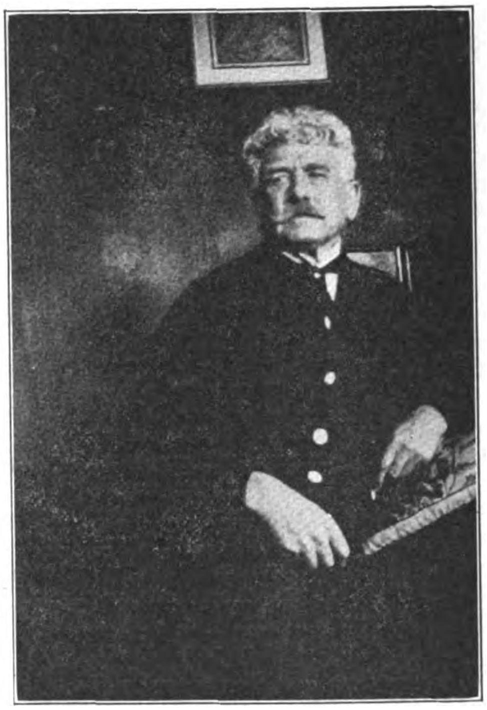
It is well worth traveling hundreds of miles!

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

The Mexican Review will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist The Review in this important but difficult task.

AMBROSE BIERCE

The friends of Ambrose Bierce, the well-known American author and correspondent, are very desirous of securing some definite information regarding his present whereabouts, or his fate. Mr. Bierce had lived in California many years. He was an ardent sympathizer with the Madero revolution, and afterwards with the movement under President Carranza against the traitor Huerta. He went to El Paso in the latter part of 1913, with the intention of joining the Constitutionalist forces. The last that was heard from him was in a letter mailed at Chihuahua in October of that year, in which he stated that he was then sojourning at a point some eight or ten miles from the City of Chihuahua. He did not specify the locality, however. Since that time nothing has been heard from him, although many efforts have been made to secure some definite information. The accompanying photograph was taken not long before he went to Mexico and it is published in the hope that some one may recognize it and send the information which is so much desired by his multitude of friends. If any one recognizing the portrait, or knowing anything of Mr. Bierce will communicate with the Mexican News Bureau, 613 Riggs Bldg., Washington, D. C., it will be a very great favor.



President Carranza has directed that cotton seed imported from the United States for planting in Mexico shall be admitted free of duty.

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Food Situation in Hand

Abundant Supplies of Corn and Other Products Being Received— Organization of the Department of Subsistence

It is officially announced in the press of Mexico City that abundant supplies of corn have been arranged for in the United States and are now being received. Thirty-six carloads crossed the border in one day recently, while 140 carloads in addition were en route. The grain is sent to various localities where it is most needed and is sold at as near cost as possible. Additional funds have been placed at the disposition of the Committee on Subsistence by the Government in order to maintain the supply so long as it shall be needed.

The Secretary of Industry and Commerce has organized a new bureau to be called the Department of Subsistence, which shall in future take charge of all matters pertaining to the food supply. It will have the aid of the Chambers of Commerce throughout the Republic and hopes to be able to equalize supplies in the future, and to cope with the problem of there being abundant crops and a surplus in some portions of the Republic, while there are short crops and corresponding lack of grain in others, due to faulty methods of distribution. The cultivation of a greater acreage in grain in those States which are best adapted thereto is also to be stimulated.

The Governments of Chile, Colombia and Venezuela are taking steps for a freer interchange of food supplies between those countries and Mexico, each producing many articles that are required in the other.

REBATE OF DUTIES ON AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY

At a recent session of the Council of Ministers in the City of Mexico, Secretary Alberto J. Pani, of the Department of Industry and Commerce, presented an important project, with which the President has expressed himself in accord, for the remission of the import duties upon all classes of machinery for agricultural purposes, with the object of stimulating such enterprises in all portions of the Republic, to the end that sufficient grain and other food products may always be raised to meet the needs of the population. In pre-Revolutionary days, as well as at present, it was necessary nearly every year to import grain, beans, etc., from abroad to supply the demand. By allotting lands for cultivation to those applying therefor, by stimulating the utilization of idle lands, and by the free importation of machinery it is expected to eliminate any future necessity for importation of the prime food necessaries of subsistence.

Seven hundred and fifty thousand acres of agricultural land in the municipality of Casas Grandes, State of Chihuahua, have been returned to the National Government through failure of the concessionaires to comply with the terms of their contract through which they had obtained control of the land at a ridiculously inadequate price. It will probably be subdivided and allotted to people who wish to cultivate small tracts thereof.

The Chamber of Agriculture of the Laguna region is securing large supplies of bisulphate of carbon for use in combatting the ravages of the "gusano rosado," or pink caterpillar, that is attacking the cotton plantations. The chemical will be disposed of at cost to all planters.

Under instructions from the Director General of Agriculture many thousands of vine cuttings have been sent to the Laguna region of Coahuila and Durango, and will there be propagated, as that section is peculiarly adapted to the cultivation of grapes.

The lands reclaimed from Lake Texcoco, in the vicinity of Mexico City, are being planted with fruit trees where the soil is available, and with other varieties of growth where the presence of superabundant salt makes the former impossible of growth.

Many applications have been received by the Secretary of Fomento for the allotment of free lands in the State of Sonora to persons desiring to cultivate them, and a large addition to crops is expected in consequence.

The Government of Cuba is taking steps to experiment with the cultivation of the guayule plant in that country, in order that it may be added to the industries thereof.

A shipment of one thousand tons of sugar was recently received at Salina Cruz from Peru by a foreign company, and has been shipped to Mexico City, where there is a scarcity of the article.

Commencing with February 1st, the exportation of various articles of food is prohibited, such as lard, sugar, flour, pickles, canned meats, preserves, etc.

Notice has been sent to the Governors of all the States of the Republic directing the free transportation of food articles of prime necessity to whatever section they may be needed.

Four carloads of tractors for agricultural purposes recently passed the border at Laredo, Texas, and were dispatched to Torreon, the center of the Laguna cotton-growing district.

Fifty-seven carloads of corn were recently shipped from the port of Manzanillo, on the west coast, into the interior of the country where needed.

The Municipal Presidents in conjunction with the Governor of the State of Puebla have organized clubs for the provision of cereals, and have taken the necessary steps to remedy any scarcity of food and also to encourage the planting of sufficient acreage to supply the local demand, at the least. An appropriation has been made of funds for the assistance of agriculturists who may need aid in order to proceed with their farm operations.

The Government of Lower California proposes to expend $50,000 in the acquisition of wheat and flour, which will be sold to the needy at cost.

The officials of Yucatan have obtained large quantities of sugar which is sold to the public at prices much lower than those demanded by the dealers and which are exorbitant.

The fresh-fish dealers of the city of Mexico have petitioned the authorities for the establishment of a market devoted solely to the handling of sea products, in place of as at present being distributed among the various public markets. Such an establishment would be more sanitary than at present and it is also expected that prices will be more uniform and also lower.

Large quantities of sugar are being forwarded from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to all portions of the Republic where that necessary is not produced, with the result that there has been a material lessening of the price. As with many other food articles, the difficulty is not so much any shortage of production as of restriction of transportation.

Active measures have been taken by the authorities of the State of Michoacan to preserve the supplies of corn now existing, both for food and for planting the new crop. All lands that are susceptible of cultivation and which are allowed to remain idle will be utilized under governmental auspices.

One hundred thousand sacks of coffee have arrived at Puerto Mexico from the plantations of Chiapas and Oaxaca, and will be shipped to the United States for transmission to Europe for the use of the Allies as soon as the necessary vessels can be secured.

A cargo of flour from California has arrived at Manzanillo and will be trans-shipped to points in the Territory of Lower California, where it is most needed. It was purchased by Governor Esteban Cantu of that Territory.

Large quantities of sugar are being shipped from Cuba to Vera Cruz at an average cost of six cents per pound in Cuban gold. Central American countries are also looking to Cuba for supplies.

AMERICAN SMELTING IN MEXICO

The American Smelting and Refining Company has completed plans for the reopening of its smelters at Chihuahua and Velardeña, Mexico. Passports have been secured and employes of the smelting concern are now understood to be close to the Mexican border.

The Chihuahua smelter is the largest owned by the company. It has been closed down entirely for some time, although three of the company's smelters have been in active operation.

Officials of the smelting concern made their arrangements with the State Department for resumption of Mexican activities some time ago.

The American Smelting and Refining Company has declared the regular quarterly dividends of 1½ per cent on the common and 1¾ per cent on the preferred stocks. Preferred dividend is payable March 1st to stock of record February 13th. Common dividend is payable March 15th to stock of record February 26th.

A special commission of engineers has been appointed to make a careful and thorough examination of the railway lines in order to determine the damage caused by the revolution as well as that due to the lapse of time. The system of valuation employed in this country will be followed in determining the value of the various lines.

For the Public Benefit

Many Steps Taken for the Advancement of the Interests of the People and the Country

THE Secretary of Industry and Commerce announces that permanent exhibits of Mexican natural and manufactured products are to be established by his department in the following cities under supervision of the consulates in those places: Bordeaux, Barcelona, Tokio, Copenhagen, Gothenburg, Havana, San Salvador, San Marcos, Santander, Marseilles, Stockholm, Hamburg, Santiago de Chile, Cienfuegos, Paris, New York, New Orleans, St. Louis, San Francisco.

The preliminary work has been accomplished for securing an elaborate statistical report upon the national wealth. All of the industries of the country will be represented, and every class of data will be secured and published that deals with any feature of the question. This is the first determined effort for a comprehensive collation of data that has ever been made.

Employes of the National Artillery shops have devised and are now constructing cannon new in design and claimed to be superior in many respects to those now in use abroad. They are said to be lighter in weight, but to possess superior range and other essential qualities. The details of the invention are of course kept secret, but a public trial and demonstration will be made as soon as possible.

The sum of one hundred thousand pesos gold has been appropriated for the reconstruction of the port works at Manzanillo which were wantonly damaged by the Huertista forces when they were driven from that place by the Constitutionalists in 1914. Work will be commenced at once, as the commerce of the port has been greatly injured by the absence of such facilities.

A new regulation has been adopted in Mexico City by which vehicles are permitted on certain of the principal streets moving in one direction only, that being the same one in which the street cars move. In the center of the city only one track is allowed on each street and the cars move in but one direction, going to the central point by one thoroughfare and returning by another.

It is announced that the Department of Industry and Commerce is proceeding actively with the work of compiling an industrial census of the Republic, and that a large amount of data has already been received in connection with the work. It will be the most complete report of the kind ever published.

A Mexican mariner has invented a new type of submarine for use in warfare which is said to possess many novel features. A special commission has been appointed to examine it, and if found feasible the Government will undertake their construction at the arsenal in Vera Cruz, where there are all the facilities needed for such purposes.

The health regulation of the entire Republic has been placed under the control of the National Health Department, and the heads of municipalities have been instructed to install local boards which shall be instructed by the National Board as to the measures to be followed by them.

The National Biological Bureau has undertaken the establishment of laboratories for the production of yeast in order to supply bakers with this essential made under proper scientific and sanitary regulations.

The project for the construction of a wagon and automobile road from Mexico City to Juarez is being enthusiastically promoted by every locality affected throughout the entire distance.

Owing to the efforts of the National Health Department the customary prevalence of typhus fever in the winter months has been reduced to a minimum and but few cases have been reported.

A contract has been let for the cutting of a canal connecting the Panuco and Tuxpam rivers, in the State of Vera Cruz, for the better accommodation of the oil traffic in that region.

The Governor of the State of Jalisco has issued instructions for the rigid enforcement of the laws governing the sale of alcoholic beverages and the collection of the new taxes imposed.

It is officially announced that work will be commenced within a short time upon the extension of the railway from Cuatro Cienegas to Sierra Mojada, in the State of Coahuila. A very rich mineral territory will thus be opened for profitable development, and in which there is a great variety of valuable deposits.

A petition signed by many prominent citizens has been presented to the City Council of Mexico, asking that the exhibition of moving-picture films representing robberies, assaults and other crimes be forbidden, on account of their deleterious influence upon public morals.

It is announced in the Mexico City press that Roberto V. Pesqueira, the financial agent of the Mexican Government at El Paso, has recently secured the suppression of a moving-picture film that was libelous of Mexico and was calculated to provoke discord and ill feeling between the two countries. The suppression was ordered through the State Department of the United States.

The Department of Agriculture has been asked to appoint delegates to the agricultural congress to be held at Kansas City, Mo., in October next, and has given its consent thereto.

The representatives of one hundred colored families in Texas has petitioned the Department of Fomento for assistance in establishing a colony in some portion of the country where they can engage in the production of cotton, corn and other familiar crops. A careful study is being made of the proposition.

A museum of natural history was recently opened in the city of Aguascalientes with appropriate ceremonies and festivities. It is under the management of a special representative of the Department of Fine Arts and it is believed will become a notable feature in this direction.

At a recent session of the State Congress of Michoacan provision was made for the establishment and maintenance of a total of 500 schools, as follows: High schools, 11; mixed high schools, 4; elementary schools, 482; night schools, 6; kindergarten, 1; regional schools, 6.

Petitions have been presented to the National Agrarian Commission for an allotment of lands upon which to establish military colonies in the State of Chihuahua. One locality has been chosen a short distance north of the city of Chihuahua, and another at Temosachic, in the District of Guerrero. The project has been received favorably.

The Chamber of Commerce of the city of Puebla has established a commercial academy, in which instruction will be given in accounts, shorthand and typewriting, as well as in social and political economy, history, geography and other branches of importance in the commercial world. Both day and night classes will be conducted.

There are nearly one hundred and seventy "jitneys" in service in Mexico City and connecting with various suburban points. Many are of large size and carry from twelve to twenty passengers each. A tax of 5 per cent of the total receipts is collected by the Federal Government from the proprietors of these vehicles.

A large amount of valuable church property belonging to the National Government has been discovered hidden in two railway cars which were about to cross the border into the United States. The property will be deposited in the National Museum and the parties violating the law will be prosecuted.

A society for the study of biology has been established in the city of Mexico with a number of prominent students, much interest being taken in the matter. It is proposed to inaugurate a zoological park and acclimatization garden in the suburbs of the city for the purpose of carrying on experiments.

Although the Constitutionalist Railways are transporting from 250 to 300 carloads daily of coal and coke from the coal region of the State of Coahuila, two to three times as many can be supplied. The mines are all in full operation and are working day and night. The zinc, silver and other mines of that region are also producing largely and require the fullest services of the railways.

The exports of petroleum from Tampico and Tuxpam for two months prior to November 1st, amounted to six millions of barrels, upon which the duties were in round figures half a million dollars in the equivalent of American gold.

The Department of Agriculture has shipped quantities of seeds of the guayule plant (the rubber yielding desert growth) to Lower California, with the object of making that region a center of production, the soil and climate being adapted to the plant.

Agricultural Progress

Wholesale Planting of Corn and Other Crops Being Encouraged by the Government—Sinking Artesian Wells

THE special agent in charge of the agencies of agricultural information in Sonora reports that a careful study is being made by him of the best methods for the cultivation of the garbanza or chick pea, also combatting the insect enemies of the cotton plant. Under this agent's care, Arbor Day was celebrated on February 5th and many trees were planted. Assistance is also being rendered to the farmers in the Mayo region to bring their lands again into a productive condition after the ravages of the Revolution.

A large amount of cotton seed has been supplied by the Government to farmers in the State of Nuevo Leon in order to encourage them in the cultivation of the staple at a distance from those localities, where insect enemies of the cotton plant have been committing ravages. The Nuevo Leon farmers will also be supplied with other seeds and with tractors for cultivating their farms.

A company has been formed in the State of Jalisco which will plant seven hundred and fifty thousand acres in wheat and corn. The Chamber of Commerce and the State Government are rendering all aid in their power, and enough grain will be produced to not only supply the population of the State, but to assure a large surplus for other less favored regions.

An expert in the Department of Biological Survey announces the discovery of a plant called "Cebadilla," the seeds of which produce asphyxiating gases such as are being used in the present European war. Analysis shows they contain an alkaloid named "veratrina," which has the capacity of crystallization. There are five varieties of the plant in the country.

A systematic effort has been commenced for the introduction of the silk industry into the Republic. A shipment of silkworm eggs has been received from France and they will be carefully tended until they mature. In this connection it is reported that an entirely new source of silk has recently been discovered in the State of Puebla.

Under the direction of the Director General of Agriculture machinery will be acquired by the Department for the purpose of sinking artesian wells in various portions of the Republic where necessary. This work will be done by Government employes, but where it is desired private parties will be permitted to rent the apparatus at a moderate outlay.

The Infantile League of Agriculture is the name bestowed upon an extensive organization of school pupils who propose to devote their spare hours and vacation periods to the cultivation of the soil under competent instructors. The parent organization has its headquarters in Mexico City.

The Director General of Agriculture has issued a call to all persons interested in the adoption of sericulture on an extended scale to join the classes that are to be established for the purpose of giving expert instruction in this profitable industry, for which Mexico is well adapted in every respect.

The arrival and immediate use of a number of tractors and other modern agricultural machinery is noted in the news reports from Torreon, the metropolis of the Laguna district.

The sugar growers of Sinaloa have harvested abundant crops this season and are now seeking to exchange their surplus for other articles not produced so abundantly in that region.

The National Agrarian Commission has recommended the return of various community lands in the States of Campeche, Guanajuato, Hidalgo, and Michoacan.

A special commission has been appointed under direction of Secretary Rouaix of the Department of Fomento for the purpose of investigating various concessions granted under the Diaz régime, for the purpose of ascertaining if their terms have been fulfilled. If not, the lands will revert to the Government. An especial instance is that of a grant of five thousand hectares (one and a quarter million acres) in the State of Chihuahua for alleged colonization purposes.

No less than ten different petitions have been presented to the Agrarian Commission of the State of Puebla for the setting apart of lands for the establishment of pueblos, or communities. A large number of similar petitions have already been granted in that State, as well as the restoration of former community lands to their rightful owners.

A project is under consideration by the Department of Fomento for the appointment of competent experts who shall undertake the instruction of those to whom are allotted unused lands for cultivation, and who shall supply them with the needed facilities for that purpose.

Experiments made in the Bajio and in other wheat-growing sections of the north with a new variety of grain, known as "mountain wheat," and having its origin in Spain, have shown that no less than three crops thereof can be harvested in a single year. The first crop is harvested in March, the second in August, and the third at the close of the year. While the quality may not be so high as that of some of the better classes of grain, the superabundant yield more than compensates therefor.

Viticulture upon an extensive scale is to be established in the State of Hidalgo, in certain localities where the soil and climate are adapted thereto. Quantities of cuttings are being brought from other sections and the work will be prosecuted under governmental auspices.

The Botanical Section of the Department of Agriculture is experimenting with a variety of new plants from various portions of the world which it is believed will prove of value in Mexico by adding to the available food supply and which are adaptable to the peculiar climatic conditions.

LABOR CONDITIONS IMPROVING

Many Union Representatives Declare Against Participation in Politics—Arbitration and Conciliation

AT a recent meeting of the Boards of Directors of the Syndicates, Unions and labor organizations representing over 35,000 workingmen, it was decided to retire entirely from political effort and to confine their attention exclusively to the reorganization of the unions and other bodies. It is stated that while paying attention to political matters without result, the real interests of the laboring classes have suffered, and that in future these will have the first claim upon their efforts.

The School of Engineers, Mechanics and Electricians in Mexico City is to be reorganized upon a practical basis. Heretofore graduates have been provided with theoretical knowledge, but none of a practical character, and this is to be remedied. Both night and day sessions will be held and graduates will not be sent out until they have demonstrated their mastery of the especial branch which they have studied.

A large number of laborers have been employed by the Department of Agriculture in the exploitation of the resources of the State of Quintana Roo, more especially the rubber, chicle and other gums and resins. Their compensation has been established at the equivalent of $1.50 daily in gold.

The Mutual Association of Mercantile Employes of the city of Chihuahua has established an academy where shorthand, typewriting, music and other branches will be taught for the benefit of those desiring to perfect themselves in their vocations.

A plan for the establishment of Municipal Arbitration Commissions has been prepared in the State of Aguascalientes and presented to the State Congress for discussion and adoption. The mining industry will be the principal one affected.

The Workingmen's Congress of the State of Yucatan, which has already held several interesting sessions in the city of Merida, was opened on January 6th and will continue in session for an extended period.

The Congress of the State of Mexico has approved the law of conciliation and arbitration for the settlement of all labor disputes which was offered by Governor Agustin Millan some time ago.

The employes of the street-car system of Mexico City, numbering several thousands, have organized a co-operative society for the purpose of obtaining regular supplies of the necessaries of life at lower rates than are demanded by dealers. They have taken up the matter with enthusiasm and it is believed that success will attend the effort.

The Governor of the Federal District has nominated members of the Commission of Conciliation and Arbitration from the various commercial and manufacturing houses to act in conjunction with representatives of the workingmen and the Government in settling labor disputes.

Mining and Petroleum

Facts Showing Prosperity of Many of the Leading Concerns Engaged in Business in Mexico

UNDER the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Industry a compilation has been made of the data regarding the production of gold, silver and lead throughout the Republic for the thirty-six years from 1877 to 1913, and will be brought down to date as soon as is possible by the bureau entrusted with the gathering of statistics concerning all the industries of the nation. During the thirty-six years under consideration there has been a grand total production of the four classes of metals named of $3,000,000,000.

Of gold there has been produced 424,861 kilograms (934,694 pounds), of the value of $556,480,093.42.

Of silver there has been produced 51,713,424 kilograms (113,769,533 pounds), with a value of $2,059,161,134.72.

Of copper there has been produced 700,000,000 kilograms (1,540,000,000 pounds), with a value of $284,445,821.54.

Of lead there has been produced 1,574,549,204 kilograms (3,464,008,249 pounds), with a value of $84,382,704.98.

The lowest production of gold was in 1885, the total being only 974 kilograms (2143 pounds), with a value of $1,298,988.75. The gold production was the largest in 1911-12, when it reached 36,415 kilograms (80,113 pounds), with a value of some $50,000,000.

In 1877 silver production only reached 607,036 kilograms (1,335,279 pounds), with a value of about $25,000,000. In 1911-12 the production reached 2,500,000 kilograms (5,500,000 pounds).

In 1911-12 copper reached the total of nearly 60,000,000 kilograms (132,000,000 pounds), while in 1897-98 the production was only 11,298,907 kilograms (24,857,795 pounds).

In 1896-97 the production of lead reached 55,000,000 kilograms (121,000,000 pounds), while in 1909-10 it reached 125,299,318 kilograms (275,658,499 pounds).

Taking the average of the thirty-six years for which statistics are given, and there should be added for the four years 1914-15-16-17, at least $333,333,333, although the total will probably bring the production from 1877 to and including 1917 up to at least $3,500,000,000.

(NOTE.—The values as given are in Mexican gold, the equivalent in American gold being one-half, or a grand total for the forty years of at least $1,750,000,000.)

During the month of January seventy new mining denunciations were received and titles issued by the Department of Industry and Commerce. Of these, 38 were for gold and silver deposits, eight of silver and lead, eight of silver and copper, four of lead and zinc, one each of bismuth and antimony, and the others of various minerals. Half of these locations were in the State of Sonora, the others being in Chihuahua, Zacatecas, Nuevo Leon, Durango, Nayarit, Sinaloa, Guanajuato, Coahuila and Michoacan.

Under permission of the State Government, one of the largest mining companies in Pachuca (the leading silver camp of the Republic and in which operations were conducted with slight interruption throughout the entire Revolution and are still so conducted), has opened an establishment for the sale of food and clothing at prices far less than those that obtain in the markets. It is stated that they are able to cover the cost of purchase and distribution and maintain rates 50 per cent lower than those demanded by dealers. The general public as well as the mine employes are allowed to take advantage of this enterprise.

A special commission of engineers has been appointed in the Tampico oil region for the purpose of devising some plan for the systematic development of the extensive Federal zones in that section that are known to possess valuable deposits of petroleum. It is expected that a large addition will be made to the revenue of the National Government through the leasing of these lands.

That Mexico is entering upon a long period of prosperity is announced by the press, based upon the enormous demand for copper, silver, and other metals produced in that country. Mining is undergoing a revival in every direction and properties that had been idle because of the small percentage of metal in the ores are now being worked at a profit, owing to the increased prices.

Preparations are being made for the establishment of a permanent Agricultural and Mining Congress in the city of Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, for the purpose of handling the many important questions affecting those engaged in these industries in Northern Mexico.

Under the direction of Secretary Pani, of the Department of Industry and Commerce, it is proposed to develop certain extensive deposits of coal on the Rio Grande in the State of Nuevo Leon, the town of Columbia being the center thereof. A branch railway will be constructed from the main line of the National system, and as the quality of the coal is high, it is expected there will be an active demand therefor and an important industry be thus created.

Official reports state that the production of copper in Lower California has in the last years reached an average of eleven thousand tons annually. A large share of it is produced at Santa Rosalia, a port on the eastern shore of the peninsula, where there is a population of between ten and eleven thousand, all engaged in copper mining for a single concern. The settlement is provided with all modern improvements, including electric lights, schools, hospital, etc.

The demand for sulphur owing to the war has been so greatly stimulated that the Government is investigating the various sources of supply with a view to their development. The States of San Luis Potosi, Coahuila, Durango, Chiapas and Guerrero, as well as the southern district of Lower California, possess deposits of this material which it is believed will repay development.

FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

Treasury Receipts and Disbursements—Constant Improvement Noted in Many Directions

ON January 12th the Treasury Department issued a statement showing the receipts and disbursements of the National Treasury during the months of July and August last year. On July 1st there was a cash balance in the Treasury of $3,896,644.24. The receipts from various sources brought the total up to $51,026,882.22. During the two months named the disbursements were $46,929,099.01, while on the 31st of August there was a balance of $4,097,783.21 on hand.

A great scarcity is noted in financial circles of the three per cent consolidated national bonds. These bonds are required as deposits in many transactions to which the Government is a part, such as granting concessions of various characters, and applicants find it increasingly difficult to secure the amounts needed by them, holders not caring to part with these evidences of the nation's debt.

The work of retiring and incinerating the paper issues of the various banks is progressing rapidly and many millions have been disposed of in this manner. Very little is now left of the different national paper issues, all but a limited amount having been called in and destroyed.

The transactions recorded in the office of Public Registration of Property and Commerce in the city of Mexico for the year just closed amounted to a grand total of $114,091,603. The collections by the Government upon these transactions were $127,661 for taxes, searching of titles, certificates, etc.

The estimates of the Postoffice Department for the year 1918 amount to $6,539,667.20, which is $700,000 more than for the year 1912-1913. The increase will be devoted to additional compensation for the minor employes of the department, such as messengers, carriers, laborers, etc.

For the month of January the Constitutionalist Railways paid into the National Treasury the sum of $750,000, the balance after all operating expenses, salaries, etc., were paid.

Senator Francisco M. Gonzales, who has been occupying the post of National Treasurer, has recently been appointed to the new position of Controller, a special bureau having been created for that purpose.

Under the authorization of the Secretary of the Treasury and the control of the Monetary Commission, $6,000,000 in silver coins has been sent to New York for exchange in gold bullion, which will be coined into Mexican denominations.

Notwithstanding the decrease in oceanic traffic at Vera Cruz, owing to the reduction in the number of steamers calling there monthly, the average amount turned into the National Treasury for each of the past three months has been $1,200,000.

The exportation of petroleum from the Tampico district for the month of January was much greater than for the previous months. The only limit is the amount of tonnage available, which is not sufficient to meet the demands of purchasers.

Misunderstood Mexico

A Missionary Society Makes a Plea on Behalf of the Next-Door Neighbor of the United States

BEAUTIFUL, wonderful old Mexico, our nearest foreign mission field, which is separated from the United States by nothing but an imaginary line 2000 miles long, the Rio Grande, *and prejudice.* A fascinating country and people under our very noses, but as little known and understood by the average American as is the country of the Grand Lama (Tibet). Do you realize that Mexicans are Americans like ourselves, and North Americans at that?

In order properly to understand Mexico one must more than cross the imaginary line or the river. Your prejudice will take to its legs when you get into the heart of Mexico and the soul of the Mexican people. But you must go farther than Tia Juana or New Laredo, Nogales or Ciudad Juarez, to see the real Mexico or the real Mexican. There are too many long American race courses, too much bad United States whiskey, too numerous terrible gambling holes and other dens of iniquity, too many vices and too few virtues in the border towns to see Mexico or Mexicans at their best.

Mexico is a huge everything in physical and general characteristics. All kinds of climate, all kinds of products, all kinds of scenery, and all kinds of people. These varieties depend upon latitude, longitude and altitude. Chilpancingo and Chihuahua are as different as El Paso and New York. A Guerrero Indian and a Mexican City gentleman are as much alike as a Bostonian and a Texan cowboy. The Yucatecos and Tabasqueñians are a species by themselves, just as native Californians and Yankees are different. We must not generalize in regard to Mexico from too few particulars.

Any one who understands the land and the people at all must confess that Mexico has been crushed, oppressed and miserably treated since the days of Cortez. Spain, France and the United States of America have each given her a whack in his own brutal way and for his own ungodly gains. Soldiers of fortune of many nations have gone to Mexico to exploit her for their own selfish ends, taking all they could get, and giving, or leaving, little in return. They have not even left an impress of good manners or good morals or pleasant memories.

Not long ago, Mexico was nearly as large as the United States. Little by little (the Mexicans say *poco a poco*) slices have been carved off. California and Texas, Colorado and Utah, Nevada and Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arizona, and once upon a time, quite a chunk of Wyoming and Kansas belonged to Mexico. How very strange that Mexico should be at all suspicious when the United States troops crossed the border, though Washington tried to make it very clear that the expedition was merely to run down a bandit who had invaded United States territory. Dollars and soldiers by the thousand per day were spent to hunt for a little needle in a great big Mexican hay stack. "Villa dead or alive" was the slogan! Our small missionary army, feeble as we are in Mexico, could eliminate every bandit in a decade on half the expenditure of money and men, and we could take all the bandits alive too.—*Bulletin of Board of Foreign Missions.*

MEXICAN-JAPANESE BUGABOO

A Former Officer in the Revolutionary Forces Punctures Some Popular Myths Inculcated by the Interventionist Press

BY CAPTAIN JACK T. NEVILLE

WHAT about, the Mexican-Japanese bugaboo, always hanging about in the offing as menacing as a ghostly submarine and just now out in front, with the wind in its teeth and going strong, as the result of the report by the American interventionist press of a Japanese deal for Clipperton Island, off Panama, as a naval base threatening the canal?

Are Japan and Mexico negotiating secret treaties? Is Japan to supply Mexico with munitions? Is Japan to acquire through Mexico a foothold on our side of the Pacific?

In a word—are Mexico and Japan plotting to sandbag Uncle Sam from the rear while he has his fists turned toward Germany?

If they are, Americans ought to know about it. And if they are not, then these rumors ought to be chloroformed, because they distract our attention from the main job in hand —whipping the Kaiser.

In probing this condition I investigated for the *Daily International:*

General Obregon's recent stay in San Francisco and rumors of frequent conferences with Mexican and Japanese officials.

Reports of a coming Cantu republic in Lower California, which might embroil the United States and Mexico.

And—most thrilling of all—the so-called Burns secret mission to swap Clipperton Island to Japan for war munitions and money.

And I found—lots of smoke and no fire.

During the recent turbulent years in Mexico Japan has been the club held over Uncle Sam's head by Mexican factions and American interventionists alike.

When a Mexican sails for Japan he is, in the interventionist press, a secret emissary to negotiate secret treaties.

Mexico is always just about to sell or lease Magdalena Bay to Japan in return for a treaty of offense and defense against the United States.

January 12 Juan Burns, former Mexican consul general to New York, sailed for Japan aboard the Japanese liner *Anyo Maru.* Burns was arrested some months ago in New York for blocking the draft act. When he went back to Mexico he jumped $10,000 bonds.

The interventionists flashed over America a tale that he was going to Japan to buy arms and ammunition for Mexico, to sell Clipperton Island, Mexican land, to Japan for a naval base, and to negotiate offensive and defensive treaties.

I boarded the *Anyo Maru* and talked with Burns. I have known him for years and am confident I got the real story.

Juan Burns is going to Japan to act as consul general to Kobe or Nagasaki. He is on no diplomatic mission. He seeks no munitions and he will not talk of trading Mexican land to Japan.

Later I verified the story by talking with Consul General Ramon de Negri at San Francisco. There had been no time for Burns and de Negri to exchange tips. The consul's story tallied in every way with that of Burns.

And—anybody who knows Mexico knows few Mexicans would consent to any nation getting a foothold there. When resident Japanese sought to enter the Mexican army, their offer was refused by President Carranza.

Clipperton Island, according to the interventionists' scare, bears the same strategic relation to the Panama Canal as Heligoland bears to Keil. Well, as a matter of fact, Clipperton Island is 2400 miles from the canal. On an air line Boston, Mass., is 75 miles closer. A U. S. fleet could start from Hampton Roads at the same time a Japanese fleet started from Clipperton, and the Americans could sail through the canal and meet the Japanese almost 500 miles from its western mouth.

Literally, Japan has long been a sort of St. Helena for Mexico. Huerta ordered Felix Diaz there when he became too powerful in Mexico. There is little for a Mexican official to do in Japan, but it keeps him out of mischief at home. In the entire history of Mexico, Japan has been useful to the Mexicans only in that way.

My conclusions are:

Perhaps Japan would like a foothold in Mexico some day, but she knows better than to try for it now.

Uncle Sam would tolerate no Japanese base on this side of the Pacific, but Clipperton would make a poor one.

Japan is satisfied for the present with the Lansing-Ishii pact, which means that we stay away from China and the Japs stay away from the western hemisphere.

England would not permit Japanese expansion in American waters.

We've got just one job now—to beat the Kaiser. If we do that we will not have to fight anybody else. So let's not permit Mexican-Japanese bugaboo to divide our attention or energies.—*Douglas (Ariz.) International.*

Preparations are being made to take a census of the population of Mexico during the coming year. The last one was in the centennial year of 1910, and showed a total population of over fifteen millions. The City of Mexico then had a total of 450,000 people, but it is believed that the coming census will show upward of a million or more, and that the entire Federal District will have about 1,200,000 population against 520,000 in 1910.

Mexico Wants Highways

The Good Roads Association of Texas Invited to Join the Mexicans in the Construction of Connecting Routes

BY G. A. MAC NAUGHTON, EDITOR "TEXAS GOOD ROADS MAGAZINE"

As far back as the twelfth century, when the Toltecs came to the country from the north, or as they said, Tullan, we know that Mexico witnessed the materialization of the boosters' dream; and roads were being constructed, so that is no new condition in Mexico; so the road booster comes, not to "start something," but to rejuvenate the boosters of old, and re-create sentiment that never should have been permitted to wane and almost disappear. Mexico, land of dreams and teeming with a superabundance of all that the tourist holds dear, is better entitled to all the privileges of highway conveniences than any; and why not join hands in the most worthy enterprise? And is there a better or more pleasing way to inaugurate the new and forget the old than via the modern highway? Not forget it, but remember it as part of the making of Modern Mexico. Put it all in history—the Toltecs, the Aztecs, the Spaniards, the French, Montezuma, Cortes, Quetzalcoatl, Grijalva, Hidalgo, Calleja, Guerrero, Iturbide, Santa Ana, Herrera, Cevallos, Alvarez, Comonfort, Zulvago, Robles, Juarez, Miramon, Almonte, Maximilian, Tejeda, Porfirio Diaz—all people and men, who made up the great and glorious and oft-time bloody story of Mexico.

Would that we could have room to tell it in detail—rebellion and counter rebellion and revolution. Fain would we pluck a page of that history and retell the story of Juarez and Maximilian and the beautiful Carlota, whom the poet has so fittingly framed in song. We would even go back later and scan Cortes, and then even further back would we peer into the past and see how the so-called primitive Toltecs plied their different trades and professions yonder in the seventh and twelfth centuries, just as we do now in this day of 1918. Surely it may be said of them, they builded wiser than they planned, for the great structures of stone are there today, to remind us of the brain and brawn of this Toltec age. There has always and ever been a religious people that lived south of the Rio Grande, and therefore a matter of no little national pride, as well as cause for quest, are the numberless cathedrals to the humble country church houses that dot the face of the country so thickly as to ever invite undivided interest. Every city in Mexico, just like the country in its different localities, is different; and so, though the same come in long stretches, and much thereof the table land, the prairie, and so on, there is a world of itself to be seen in Mexico as nowhere else, and the man who says otherwise is simply not a true witness.

"We want you to come over into Mexico and lay off a direct highway from Laredo to the City of Mexico, and if necessary we will give you a convoy of Carranza soldiers to aid you in developing and promoting this very necessary road." Thus read the invitation to D. E. Colp and G. A. MacNaughton, to log a route for a highway through Mexico, connecting as it thus would the City of Mexico and the country further south with Canada, for the great international highways, the Meridian Road and the King of Trails, now reach from Winnipeg, Canada, to Laredo, Texas, a distance of some 2000 miles; and it has often been the proud boast of our own good-roads boosters that one-third of this distance is within the Texas limits—628 miles!

Away back in boyhood days, when looking across the vast valley of the Rio Grande and gazing on the turbid waters thereof, we must freely confess the mind would dwell long and ardently on the myriad mysteries and the advantages and the adventures of the country over there, at that time known as the refuge and haven of the ever-present bad man. For it was there the bad man who went unhung hastened. But, ah, how times have changed and are changing! With the return of peace—sweet peace—Modern Mexico is a new thought and a realization vastly different from the old. The electric light, the telephone, modern hotels, etc., are all there; and the key is a high-class highway. Will we go over into Macedonia? Surely we will, for the Apostle of the Bible is not now a greater necessity than the Evangel of Good Roads. For now the smile of peace is cast athwart the land across the Rio Grande, and who is there that would not enlist in such a righteous cause and undertake such a goodly enterprise? Eureka! Eureka! We will build a highway so that the tourists of the North may have the advantage of the Playground of the World, for that's Mexico. And ever and anon a pessimist whispers in our ear, "There's nothing to it." But we strive with ways and means to get there and do our level best; but again there comes that pessimistic flareback, "There's nothing to it."

The stories of the past, of the great projects evolved and successfully consummated, ring in our ears. So what is there in the pessimistic prattle anyway? We will do the big job! What is there to a bonehead pessimist, anyway? Did the great Luther harken to the voice of the Pest? Did Columbus stop long enough to listen to the Pest? Did George Washington permit the Pest to delay the great game of Freedom for the United States? Pessimist, thou art well named Pest? Surely, surely, the Pest is a bonehead, and his knock is ascribed to ignorance and maybe prejudice. For is not much of the material advancement even along the line of industrial enterprise due to "local talent"?

Was not this local talent? It was just the other day that an official of the Carranza Government asked that the Road Loggers of Texas come to Mexico, and it was a sincere and cordial invitation for road blazers to come over. This same gentleman from Mexico said he recognized the fact that fine highways appealed to finer natures, and that to bring his beloved country up to the high notch to which he aspired, the international highways must be continued into and through Mexico. His chief ambition, he said, was to expedite the building of a creditable highway across Mexico, to make easy and pleasant the travel of the tourist and commercial transportation; a system of highways and laterals to connect the City of Mexico and all of Mexico with the far-away North.

It is a project that has been discussed in the highway conventions on this side of the "Big River," but who ever thought that there was a head with right thought on the other side; who took time to think that there was a heart beating in unison with ours? In the language of our kid brother, "What do you think about that?" We are going down into Mexico to organize a series of Mexican Good Roads Associations, and shortly we will be singing a new song, "When Colp Pulls Mexico Out of the Mud." For what Colp, the Apostle of Good Roads, has done for Texas, he can do for Mexico; and who would not be a pioneer, especially in the Good Roads game? It's the sign of a "better man." For if the ambition is there to have good roads, a way will be found; and our motto has ever been, "Good Roads Make Better Men." And the Good Roads pioneer is already better.

The outcome is that if Mexico stays "good," and all indications point that way, the men who logged the Meridian Road in Texas and other roads of note, will start at an early day to log a direct highway from the City of Mexico to Laredo, where they ceased their labors some time ago. We are going to put the Meridian Road sign and the King of Trails sign all along the road, so that the denizens of the North can with the more rapidity rush South to bask in a sunshine that nowhere is so blissful and fascinating as away down in Mexico. And there is more than sunshine and history in Mexico. There are all kinds of game, big and little; and the rivers are full of fish; and there's the scenic grandeur that is in a class by itself; and then to the fellow who mixes business with pleasure, there are unlimited chances—not bubbles and dreams of curbstone real estate vendors, but opportunities that are wealth-producing, the description of which would sound as a trifler's dream. It is all there, and there is enough for you and for me and the other fellow. That's Mexico; and we have not told a little of it, for it would take volumes to describe it.

The Department of Agriculture has secured large supplies of a new species of hard wheat known as "chiauixtle," which it will distribute for cultivation. This wheat possesses very large grains and matures in a brief period, making it especially adapted to the semi-arid regions where the rainfall is frequently scanty.

Señor Zeferino Dominguez, the well known expert in the cultivation of corn, is making a tour of the various States with a series of films illustrating the various processes that should be followed in order to secure the best results. Great interest is taken by the farmers in this direction, and the methods described by Señor Dominguez will be extensively adopted.

Evaporating Bananas for Export

How Much of the Crop That Now Goes to Waste Could Be Utilized for the Production of a Valuable Food

THE growers of the Tabasco banana sell the greater part of their crop in bunches of the fresh fruit picked from the tree at a certain period in their ripeness. At this stage the article is difficult to handle, for it will keep only a short time. Consequently its commerce is limited to markets a short distance from its production or where transportation is easy.

The bunches that are not accepted by the exporters, because of small size or some defect in quality, are prepared in evaporated form. The water which they contain is evaporated by exposing them to the sun. They are peeled or opened in a certain way and then left to dry. As one may understand, the process of evaporation of the banana by the sun has become a considerable home industry, yielding, however, very small profits.

The trade, which gathers together the evaporated bananas with difficulty, sells at exaggerated prices. These could be greatly reduced if a capitalized company were to take charge of the industry. Few planters have the ovens necessary to prepare the evaporated banana. In most cases the banana is peeled and then cut lengthwise several times. In exposing the fruit much precaution is necessary for protecting it in the afternoon from the birds and insects. Otherwise these will devour the fruit.

A more lamentable condition for this industry is hardly possible. Yet with its quantities of bananas it should be strong, and should enrich beyond comprehension the vast regions of Tabasco. Exceptionally favorable conditions exist in that State for indeterminate production of bananas. Although fresh fruit, difficult to handle, can be transported in good condition only short distances, the evaporated banana is easy to handle and, like evaporated dates and figs that make one of the great businesses of the world, last a long time. The same thing can be accomplished with the evaporated banana.

Up to this time commerce has concerned itself with the entire fruit or with the fruit merely halved. Undoubtedly it would be wiser to reduce the fruit when ripe to pulp by adequate machinery capable of large production, and after rolling and cutting this dough or pulp in rectangles of the desired size and thickness again by machinery, which already exists for rolling and dividing minutely a multitude of things in this manner, the evaporation might be completed in special ovens. Thus might be obtained many tons of evaporated banana, perfectly prepared in tin cans, both light and impermeable for transportation to any part of the world.

The cleaning and cutting of the banana, reducing it to pulp and then cutting, evaporating and packing it, might be done in lighters of various draughts which would navigate the extensive rivers of Tabasco and connect with the planters at the moment when the fruit becomes ripe. By such methods might be avoided a waste of the ripe fruit so difficult and costly to transport. In big business, reduction of the cost of production is of vital importance, and all circumstances which favor the thing under consideration should be taken advantage of. The banana so prepared will be a hygienic, nutritious and palatable food. By its cheapness it will be within the reach of the humblest classes in the world. Tabasco has unlimited potential production of this precious article.

At the end of the day's work the apparatus for steaming might be used for boiling and cooking the waste materials. These, so prepared, make a first-class food for chickens, turkeys, ducks and other domestic fowl, but especially for fattening swine. The breeding of pigs might become a source of wealth for Tabasco, along with the cultivation and preparation of the banana by the proper methods. Certainly the peel of the ripe fruit may be counted on cheaply enough for fattening valuable animals, the products of which supply a universal demand.

Thus an established or moving factory, besides producing the exquisite food of the evaporated banana, will provide, at scarcely any cost, materials for the fattening and breeding of all kinds of animals just as of domestic poultry.

Tabasco, exploited in its natural productions, will astonish the whole world by its richness and will bring precious prestige to the welfare of all nations.—*"El Universal."*

ALONG THE "SEA OF CORTEZ"

Governor Cantu Reports Regarding a Journey Down the Gulf of California to a Remote Section

GOVERNOR ESTEBAN CANTU, of Lower California, recently made a trip down the Colorado River and to a point on the eastern shore of the peninsula of the Territory several hundred miles from the mouth of the river. In his report to President Carranza regarding the journey, the Governor said:

"I wish to inform you of an important investigating trip to the port of San Felipe, on the coast of the Sea of Cortez, recently organized and carried out with success. The expedition comprised a number of Federal functionaries, Territorial employes, and business men from the Imperial Valley. Among the number were Engineer Manuel Balarezo, chief of the Agrarian Delegation of the Department of Fomento; Engineer Heron Cabrera, commissioned by the Department of Industry and Commerce to make an investigation of the Federal concessions relative to the natural products of this district; also Colonel B. F. Fly, editor of the *Arizona Sentinel*, of Yuma, Arizona, a sincere sympathizer with Mexico and who has always carried on in his paper an active campaign in favor of our country.

"One of the results of this expedition it is hoped will be the development of the extensive resources that exist in this portion of the Territory. It is therefore of great national importance that traffic be initiated and improved between San Felipe and the west coast of the Mexican Republic. This port (San Felipe) offers an acceptable shelter for shipping, and with inexpensive improvements can be made most advantageous. The riches of this section could thereby find an easy outlet toward the other portions of the Republic, thus establishing more intimate relations both as regards material matters, and morally and socially as well.

"Along the coast of the Gulf of California fish of fine quality abound, which would have an assured market both in Mexico and in the United States. Near San Felipe there exists a salt deposit that is practically inexhaustible, while toward the south not far from San Felipe is a zone of agricultural land that invites capital and will become one of the factors of important production in the district.

"About 35 or 40 kilometers to the northwest of San Felipe is the beautiful valley of the Providence, with some 55 square kilometers of arable lands, irrigable to a greater part. Between Mexicali and San Felipe a mine of lead and silver is now being worked in the Sierra of Las Pintas, where the formation shows encouraging signs of extensive mineralization, and it is believed other mines of greater importance can be developed.

"It is my belief that it is of great importance to construct a railroad between Mexicali and San Felipe. Governmental engineers have nearly completed the reconnoissance for this railway, which should require some 200 kilometers of construction. When the surveys are completed I shall have the honor to submit them to your examination in order to secure your approval and learn whether the general Government is disposed to lend its valuable aid to this district by granting a concession that would be favorable both to the National Government and to that of the Territory."

MEXICAN PETROLEUM COMPANY

THE properties are valued on the general balance sheet at around $65,000,000—which unquestionably is a conservative figure in view of their character and extent. On the basis of the last published annual report—that for the year 1916—the net assets applicable to the common stock amounted to $56,540,868, or $144 per share. The equities have been augmented since that time. The balance sheet showed total current assets of $8,496,000, including $3,758,800 of oil stocks on hand, $600,000 in materials and supplies, $2,874,000 in accounts receivable, and $1,195,000 in cash in bank and on hand. The current liabilities amounted to only $2,482,000, so that net working capital, based upon the difference between current assets and current liabilities, amounted to above $6,000,000.—*Industrial and Mining Age.*

The Mexico City press of November 3d, published a lengthy list of places where the community lands had been restored to their rightful owners, as also where new ones had been established for the benefit of the poor people who had petitioned for such allotment.

Facts About Mexico

Refutation of Some of the More Notable Misstatements Recently Published by the New York Sun

IN a recent issue the New York *Sun* published a lengthy article purporting to have been written by a "correspondent on the spot," but which contained so many misstatements that THE REVIEW has deemed it proper to refute some of the more notable of the many.

The article commences by deploring the financial condition of the country, and speaks of "the empty treasury."

The deficit at the present time is less than one-half million monthly. It has been steadily decreasing ever since the control of the Government was secured by the Constitutionalists and the authorities give assurance that there will soon be a balance on the right side. The Treasury statement published in November showed this. In the first two months of the present fiscal year the total treasury movements reached $55,564,746.94, while the budget for the entire year now opening amounts to $187,000,000 national gold, or but $93,500,000 American gold.

> *"General Pablo Gonzales, newly appointed secretary of Government (Gobernacion.)"*

General Gonzales is not and never was a member of the cabinet. Señor M. A. Berlanga, who has been occupying the post of sub-secretary of the Department of Gobernacion (or Government), for two years past, was sworn in as Secretary on January 19th, ten days before the *Sun* article appeared. The newspapers of the following day contained full accounts thereof.

> *"The rank and file of the army looting, etc."*

So far from this being the case, there have been various executions for breaking the law in this and other respects. One well-known general and his son, a major in the Constitutionalist army, were executed for counterfeiting, and many more instances could be cited of severe punishment for infraction of the law in this and other directions by members of the forces. The writer saw a soldier executed for breaking into a foreigner's residence and stealing some clothing. For a number of paymasters who have defaulted and fled to the United States extradition proceedings are now pending.

> *"Nothing but gold and silver in circulation. All paper was retired by the simple process of gathering it and burning it."*

Was it not something of a feat for a Government that began without a cent and fought the Revolution to success with irredeemable paper only, to resume specie payments with scarcely an effort? The paper was taken in for debts due to the Government, such as taxes, railroad, telegraph, Post Office, express dues, etc. This was burned and when the Government had to pay out money it paid out gold and silver.

> *"Seized the bullion in the banks and burned such bills as were found on hand."*

The banks of issue, having refused to obey the laws under which they were organized, although repeatedly urged to do so, were finally placed in liquidation, according to those laws. A portion of their specie was taken over by the Government as a loan, due acknowledgment made, and it will in due time be paid back. Loans of this sort are not unknown in time of war, and are not unknown in other countries at this time! The bills of these banks were retired, as the law provided, and were destroyed, since the law no longer permits the emission of paper money by any private organizations. No one profited and no one lost by this. The banks themselves refused to redeem their own paper and persisted in refusing to accept it except at a discount of 25 to 50 per cent upon the face value which they themselves had received when it was issued.

> *"The silver dollars went into the melting pot . . . Government decrees to the contrary notwithstanding."*

The Government took the lead in disposing of the silver dollars at their bullion value in gold when the price of silver became almost double the usual rate. Millions were thus exchanged, to the very great profit of the nation.

> *"Inspired meetings of Government employes, etc."*

Meetings of Government employes were held several months ago at which they pledged themselves to contribute one or two days' salary a month each for the purpose of establishing a bank of emission. No such meetings have been held for months. These contributions were voluntary and at first were intended as outright gifts. However, instructions were afterwards issued that in return for these subscriptions, stock certificates bearing interest at 5 per cent from the first of April of this year should be issued. These meetings bore a very striking resemblance to those now being held in the United States for the purpose of persuading people to invest in Liberty Bonds, War Stamps, War Certificates, etc. The assertion that employes were contributing 50 per cent of their pay is absolutely false. As stated, one to two days' salary each month is the amount loaned the Government. Many Government employes receive three-fourths of their pay in gold or silver, the balance in Treasury notes redeemable in gold or silver.

> *"Most of the mills have been destroyed or shut down."*

Whether cotton, flour or mining "mills" are meant, is not stated. The leading textile mills have not been injured in the slightest during the Revolution. All of them are intact and most are running to their full capacity. The States of Vera Cruz, Puebla, Tlaxcala and the Federal District are the centers of manufacturing of this kind, as will be shown by films to be taken under the direction of the Bureau of Public Information of the United States. These mills are all in their normal condition. The same holds true throughout the Republic, not only of cotton mills, but of flour mills, mining mills (if they can be called that) and so on. A few minor flour mills may have been destroyed, but they are so few as to be negligible.

The statement that the taxes for the Federal District which went into effect on the first of January increased the rate *one thousand per cent* is not worthy of attention. It is simply false.

> *"Private owned trains bring supplies over roads which the National Government could not operate."*

The National Government is operating trains on every line, with a few minor exceptions. The introduction of these privately owned trains was due to the destruction of rolling stock during the Revolution and to the heavy demand by reviving business. Private parties and mining men desiring to do so were permitted to bring in their own rolling stock and it is operated in conjunction with the Government owned trains by Government employes. If complete business stagnation existed, as stated by the *Sun*, why should private trains be operated for freight transmission?

The terrible picture drawn of climatic conditions and of suffering from severe cold in Mexico City, can be better understood when it is said (and this will be borne out by Californians) that the climate of Mexico City more nearly resembles that of San Francisco than any other place on the continent. The writer spent one winter in Mexico City, during which time he had no heat whatever in his room and did not suffer. Another winter followed a long summer spent in the enervating and extra-tropical climate of Vera Cruz. Fearing that the sudden change in temperature due to elevation might be detrimental, an electric stove was procured at considerable price. Two large rooms were occupied as a sitting room and bed room, and but twice during the entire winter was it found necessary to use this stove. Otherwise the temperature was never disagreeable.

As to the presence of beggars at the railway stations throughout the Republic, this is nothing new or novel. Those who visited the country in what are claimed to have been its palmy days had their attention drawn to the same matter. It was in those same days that Mexico City earned the unfortunate fame of being the most beggar ridden city in the world. Much has been done to alleviate this, as those know who were familiar with conditions prior to the Revolution, as well as now, but much remains to be done.

"President Carranza occupies a magnificent residence, etc."

It is true that President Carranza occupies a house of the better class on the Paseo de la Reforma. It is one commensurate with the dignity of the President of a great Republic, but it would scarcely be called magnificent in this city, or in any other modern American town. The owner receives rent for it and there is no reason why it should be criticised.

"Obscene Orgies" held by Carranza Generals is a gross libel and really does not merit attention. These men are quite the equal of other men of their class anywhere in the world.

"Carranza and his generals are dominated by German propaganda."

This is another statement which no one acquainted with President Carranza and his Generals would utter. It is absolutely without foundation. They are not dominated by any foreign nation, but are simply endeavoring to maintain strict neutrality, since their country, as is shown in this article, is only recovering from years of revolutionary troubles and turmoil and is in no position to take sides in any contest. Any one in search of the truth regarding alleged German propaganda in Mexico could have learned very readily from a perusal of the daily press, if from no other source, that while active efforts are being made by the Germans through certain newspapers, there is just as strong an opposition thereto. Mr. Felix Palavicini, formerly a member of the cabinet and one of President Carranza's closest advisors since early in the Revolution, resigned from the cabinet in order to establish the daily newspaper *El Universal*, which soon became the leading paper in the Republic. Ever since the question of participation by nations on this continent in the European war became a live one, Mr. Palavicini has earnestly advocated a declaration in favor of the Allies. On the 9th of January he published a broadside demanding the recall of Minister Von Eckardt, which has been republished in the American press. This matter has been discussed pro and con in the papers and no one of intelligence who has ever paid a casual visit to the country could have escaped noticing it. The fact that Mr. Palavicini is a very warm and influential friend of President Carranza has caused his newspaper to be regarded as reflecting the sentiments of the Executive. Certainly Mr. Palavicini would not have entered upon such a campaign unless he were assured in his own mind that he was in harmony with the President's ideas and was seeking to guide public sentiment. Following the publication in *El Universal*, the Special Commission of the Chamber of Deputies, which acts in an authoritative capacity during the recess of Congress, took this matter up, following the demands of *El Universal*, and it is now under consideration. All these facts are readily accessible to any correspondent who is really in search of the truth, yet the *Sun* writer did not utter a syllable about this feature of the matter.

The *Sun* persists in publishing the utterances of the pro-German press and wishes to convince its readers that such utterances reflect the opinion of the majority, while at the same time not saying one syllable about the attitude of the leading papers, headed by *El Universal*.

It also ignores two very potent facts: The supplying of arms and ammunition to the traitor Huerta to be used against the Constitutionalists when they were fighting against apparently overwhelming odds, was certainly not calculated to endear them to the hearts of the followers of President Carranza. And when the latter finally triumphed and was in a position to capture the arch-traitor and assassin, he was taken out of the country on a German man-of-war—thus cheating Justice of the vengeance that was her due. This, too, was not calculated to add to any friendly feeling. Indeed, the writer many times heard the strongest possible execration of the unfriendly action of Germany in both these cases, expressed by leading Constitutionalists.

"The Carranza Government is entering upon an era of confiscation of foreign-owned Mexican corporations."

This is not true. Whatever the Government takes it pays for. The question is too long to go into here, but a study of the decrees and notifications regarding this matter will show that there has been and will be no "confiscation." The statement that the taking over of the Tehuantepec railroad and ports from the Lord Cowdray interests by the Government is an act of confiscation is in direct opposition to the truth. The terms by which this transfer was made have been published in full in the Mexico City papers during the past two months. The formal decree was issued on the 18th of December, and it recites that by virtue of the contracts made by the Mexican Government with S. Pierson & Sons of England, in 1902, 1904 and 1906, these properties were taken over by the Government after due compensation had been made to the holders as then agreed upon. There is nothing whatever that savors of confiscation about this transaction, as can be readily seen by any one who will take the trouble to read the terms of the contract and the decree of the date mentioned, which has been published in this country.

"Sugar retails for 55 cents a pound and flour for 30 cents."

Here are the figures of retail prices in Mexico City, taken from newspapers of even date with the article in the *Sun*. (The figures are in American gold at the regular rate of exchange.)

Rice	9½ cents to 12 cents per pound
White sugar	14.95 to 22½ cents per pound
Native brown sugar	13 1/5 to 14¼ cents per pound
Dried meat	20 cents to 23 cents per pound
Barley	3⅞ cents per pound
Beans	9½ to 11½ cents per pound
Garbanzos (chick peas)	6.9 to 8¼ cents per pound
American flour	6 1/3 cents per pound
Native flour	A trifle less than this
Corn	4.9 cents per pound
Potatoes	4¼ to 5¼ cents per pound
Lard	48 cents per pound
Coffee (Green)	8¼ to 9 1/5 cents per pound

These prices will surely bear comparison with those prevailing in Washington or any other city in the United States.

"Railroads in ruinous condition."

All the railroads in the Republic are in operation except the one running through the State of Morelos, the smallest State in the Republic, a portion of which is still in a disturbed condition, owing to the operations of the Zapatistas. On some of the subsidiary lines travel is irregular, but on the main lines connecting all important cities and the American border the trains are running regularly. The beds of all these roads are in splendid condition, bridges have been rebuilt, and it is the surprise of foreigners visiting the country to find such conditions.

"From Mexico City to Queretaro the Mexican Central as it parallels the Mexican National Railways has ceased to exist, nothing remaining but culverts and the right of way. Ties and rails have entirely disappeared."

When the railroads in Mexico were in private ownership two competing lines traversed the narrow cañon for several miles in both directions from the City of Queretaro. These roads ran side by side, and not more than a stone's throw from each other. When the roads were consolidated under Government control, it was not necessary to use these parallel ones. One line was entirely sufficient for all travel, even in normal times. When there was destruction of tracks through the Revolution, and material was needed for repair, one of the superfluous lines was utilized in this way. But at both ends of the cañon to the south and to the north, where the lines separate and pass through different regions the roads are still in good condition and trains are running regularly. A useless piece of a few miles of track has been dispensed with, that is all. Trains over the Tampico and San Luis Potosi division are confined almost altogether to those carrying oil. The bulk of passenger travel from Tampico to Mexico in normal times went by way of Monterrey and still continues to do so. Over that line trains are running regularly without interruption.

"At Queretaro, where Generals Coss and Gutierrez recently set up their own revolutionary standard."

Nothing of the kind took place at Queretaro, or within 500 miles thereof! And long before the *Sun* article was written, the last vestige of the Coss-Gutierrez "revolt" of a couple of hundred men had been dissipated.

"Oil pays 11 cents tax a barrel."

The oil tax varies from 4 to 10 cents, the average being about 7. Statements of the oil tax are issued monthly, published in all the newspapers and readily accessible to newspaper correspondents at any time.

"Carranza left the capital after Christmas day for Queretaro, and it is freely predicted that he does not intend to return."

President Carranza made a trip to some of the not distant cities of the Republic at

(*Continued on Page 26*)

Proposed Petroleum Law

Projected Legislation to Be Submitted to the Industrial Congress and to the National Chamber of Deputies

(*Continued*)

CHAPTER III

Rights of Way and Expropriation

Article 71.—The rights of way authorized by this law shall be regulated by the proceedings of the civil code of the Federal District in regard to the rights and obligations of the dominating and serving properties, without prejudice to the dispositions of the following article.

Article 72.—The right of way shall consist not only in the right of transit through the adjoining properties, but also in that of installing in a permanent way, and through those same properties, lines of power transmission, telegraphic and telephonic lines, oleoducts, railroads, or any other means of transportation authorized by the regulations, destined exclusively to the necessities of exploitation of the petroleum claims. The width of the zone through which this right shall be exercised cannot be greater than ten meters, unless a contract be made otherwise.

Article 73.—The rights shall be constituted as follows:

I. By the consent of the owner of the serving lands, recorded in a public instrument.

II. By resolution of the Department of Industry and Commerce.

III. By judicial determination.

Article 74.—In lack of consent of the owner of the serving claim, the superior one shall apply to the Department of Industry and Commerce, which in the presence of the other, will decide if the servitude is to be constituted. In the affirmative, he will fix the use and the extension, the material conditions of its constitution and the indemnization which must be paid to the owner of the serving claim, in the terms fixed by the regulations.

Article 75.—The decision of the Department of Industry and Commerce authorizing the constitution of servitude shall be considered definite if no objections be made within the term of thirty days.

Article 76.—If in this term the owner of the serving claim may manifest his nonconformity, the Department shall authorize the execution of the necessary works for the exercise of the servitude, guaranteeing previously that the damages and prejudice that he may receive shall be agreed to by the owner of the other claim.

Article 77.—In cases of great urgency, as those mentioned in Articles 9 and 10, the Department of Industry and Commerce shall authorize the execution of the indispensable works without previous knowledge of the owner of the serving claim, and without the making of a deposit or guaranty referred to in the previous article; but with the express condition that the interested party shall be immediately informed, and that the deposit of guaranty be constituted within the ten following days of the authorization.

Article 78.—The resolution to which the Articles 76 and 77 refer will be made known to the owner of the serving claims, who will settle his action in a judicial manner in the term of thirty days; but if he does not take such action the servitude will be constituted definitely and the cancellation of the guaranty shall be ordered.

Article 79.—In case that the Department of Industry and Commerce may resolve that it is not proper to constitute the servitude or that it must be constituted in different terms to those asked for, the party asking its establishment may demand it in court within the term of thirty days, at the end of which he will lose his right.

Article 80.—In authorizing or denying the constitution of servitudes, the Department of Industry and Commerce shall be subject to the proceedings of the civil code of the Federal District, if not definitely expressed in this law or its regulations.

Article 81.—The amplification of servitudes already constituted shall be adjusted by the rules already prescribed for its establishment.

Article 82.—When in accordance with the determinations of this law it is necessary to proceed to the expropriation in the lack of an agreement with the owner of the superficial land, the owner of the petroleum claim shall apply to the Department of Industry and Commerce, asking said expropriation. The Department, with the presence of the former, will decide if the request can be granted or not, fixing, in the affirmative case, the extension which must be expropriated and the indemnization that must be paid by the owner of the petroleum claim, which will be arranged in the terms which the regulations may determine.

Article 83.—If the owner of the land shall resist the occupation, the owner of the petroleum claim may apply to the competent judge in order that an immediate concession of the land may be accorded in the decision of the same department, and full possession of the same be given him.

Article 84.—The administrative decision referring to the expropriation can be opposed in court by the owner of the superficial lands in case that he may declare his non-conformity to the Department of Industry and Commerce, and he may plead within a term of thirty days, after which, without fulfilling said requirements, the decision of the Department shall be taken as definitely consented to.

Article 85.—If the owner of the superficial lands has manifested his conformity with the administrative decision, or had not opposed it in the terms mentioned in the above article, or if the said resolution was confirmed in court, the owner of the petroleum claim shall apply to a competent judge, asking that the respective deed of adjudication be given him. This deed shall be signed by the Judge, in default of the expropriated party, if the latter does not appear to sign it within the term judiciously fixed by the Judge.

Article 86.—If the judicial sentence shall modify the terms in which the expropriation had been authorized by the Department of Industry and Commerce, the owner of the petroleum claim shall have the right given him by the previous article, as soon as said sentence shall take effect.

Article 87.—The resolution of the Department of Industry and Commerce which may declare there is no cause for the expropriation may be opposed in court within the term of thirty days.

Article 88.—The regulations shall determine the manner of procedure when the owner of the superficial land was not known or was doubtful and the cases in which the expropriated property owner may regain possession of the land expropriated from him.

CHAPTER FOURTH

Judgments, Penalties and Other Dispositions Related Therein

Article 89.—The courts of the Union are authorized to take cognizance of the judgments relating to the following matters:

I. Opposition or denouncement, or issuance or rectification of titles upon petroleum claims.

II. Nullity of titles on petroleum claims.

III. Expropriation caused by petroleum exploitations.

IV. Rights of way or servitude.

V. Transgressions committed against this law.

VI. Transgressions which may endanger the lives of workmen or of the inhabitants of the surroundings.

Article 90.—In the cases to which the fractions I, II and IV of the previous article referred, the contents of the case shall be determined in view of the location of the petroleum claim in dispute. In the cases mentioned in fraction II, if the nullity may be opposed as a demurrer before a judge, the latter is authorized to decide it.

Article 91.—In the judgments regarding expropriation the contest shall be determined in regard to the location of the claim which is desired to expropriate.

Article 92.—In the cases of the two previous articles, if the claim is subject, for its location, to more than one jurisdiction, the cognizant judge shall be chosen at the election of the plaintiff.

Article 93.—In the judgments of opposition referred to in fraction I of Article 89, the plaintiff shall always be the claimant, or the person who asked for the rectification. The term to present the request shall be that of thirty days.

Article 94.—If the term given in the previous article elapses without presenting the claim, the judge shall declare the opposition justified, and shall return the administrative proceedings to whom it may concern.

Article 95.—The opponent shall found his exceptions only upon the causes which he may

have expressly adduced in due time in the administrative proceedings.

Article 96.—In the cases of opposition referred to in Article 36, the presumption shall always be in favor of the claimant making the opposition.

Article 97.—There shall be tried in the courts, subject to the dispositions of the Federal Code of Civil Procedure, all cases referred to in fractions I, II, and IV of Article 89; but the ordinary term for evidence may be extended up to 40 days.

Article 98.—In cases of expropriation, the judges shall make use of the power of judicial compulsion already established in the Federal Code of Civil Procedure, in order to make effective the rights which in accordance with this law pertain to the concessionaries of petroleum claims and to petroleum refineries.

Article 99.—For the punishment of the transgressions referred to in fractions V and VI of Article 89, there shall be observed the laws of procedure in force in Federal questions.

Article 100.—The questions which the proprietor of the land that is to be expropriated may advance in opposition to the decisions of the Department of Industry and Commerce and to those already mentioned in Article 87, shall be heard with prompt justice, observing in regard to the time for presenting the evidence the provisions of Article 97.

Article 101.—In all judgments referred to in all the articles preceding this chapter, the public attorney shall be heard, and this official shall take care that the procedures may not suffer unjustifiable delays, for which purpose he shall accuse as in default the parties and move in accordance with the law. In these cases the public attorney will follow the instructions that the Department of Industry and Commerce may give him.

Article 102.—The term pointed out in this law and its regulations, in default of anything to the contrary, shall begin to count from the day following the day in which the notification has been made of the respective judicial proceeding, including therein the day of maturity.

Article 103.—There shall not be included in the computation of the terms Sundays, holidays or days of national mourning.

Article 104.—The dispositions of the civic code of the Federal District in regard to common property are also applicable to the property of the petroleum claim in everything which is not included in this law.

Article 105.—There shall be considered as commercial acts, subject to the dispositions of the commercial code, in all cases not expressly provided in this law, the following:

I. Petroleum enterprises.

II. Contracts which may have as an object the delineation, mortgage or exploitation of petroleum deposits.

III. Contracts which may be celebrated in relation to the products of the petroleum deposits.

Article 106.—The value which shall be attributed to a petroleum deposit at the time of the constitution of a petroleum partnership shall be justified through an expert appraisement under the responsibility of an expert appraiser.

Article 107.—The cases that may arise due to the contracts referred to in Article 105 shall be summarized before the competent judges of the regular order in accordance with the dispositions of the commercial code.

Article 108.—The offices of the Commercial Registry in the States, Federal District and Territories shall keep an especial book in which there shall be recorded:

I. The titles of petroleum concessions.

II. The deeds in which a promise of alienation of petroleum deposits is expressed.

III. The deeds and the judicial or administrative decisions which may transfer or affect the rights of the concessionary in regard to petroleum concessions, or by which the actual rights of others are affected upon the same.

IV. The deeds or judicial or administrative decisions affecting the exploitation of petroleum deposits.

Article 109.—The registration referred to in the previous article shall be made in the corresponding office in regard to the question of petroleum deposits. If it is located in several jurisdictions, it shall be recorded in all of them.

Article 110.—The titles constituting the servitude of the petroleum deposits shall be registered in the recording offices to which in accordance with the law correspond the serving property.

Article 111.—The inscription referred to in the second section of Article 108, in regard to a third party, shall be in effect for the term fixed by the contract, but not exceeding that of six months, counting from the date of recording, even when the term fixed for the contract is longer.

Article 112.—When the document which is to be registered is presented in the office within thirty days from the date in which the date was given or the decision was pronounced, the registration shall take effect from the date of the document. If the same is presented at the thirty days previously stated, the registration shall only take effect from the date of the presentation of the document. The recording of deeds coming from outside the Republic shall take effect from the date of the testimony of its registration in the corresponding office.

Article 113.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall impose, as a means for correction, the penalties allowed in Article 21 of the Federal Constitution for violations of the regulations of this law, and shall intrust to the competent judge those who may have to be punished with heavier penalties.

Article 114.—The agent of the Petroleum Division who may commit any falsification during the discharge of his duties shall be suspended and will be disqualified in accordance with the Penal Code, and shall be punished with the penalty of six months to one year imprisonment.

Article 115.—If in a case of falsification referred to in the previous article there was an agreement with the denouncer or with the opponents, the agent shall be punished with the penalty established in the same article, and the denouncer or opponent shall suffer a fine or imprisonment of minor extent. In the cases of bribery, the accumulation precept shall be applied.

Article 116.—The party who without any right may exploit any of the substances mentioned in Article I of this law, if he does not prove to have proceeded through a well-founded mistake, shall suffer the following punishments:

I. If the exploitation was made in free land, the punishment shall be from one to two years of imprisonment and a fine of from two to five thousand pesos.

II. If the exploitation is made on deposits already denounced or titled, the penalty mentioned in the previous fraction shall be applied, without the detriment of the indemnization corresponding to the denouncer or concessionary of the deposit.

III. If the denouncer exploits a deposit before obtaining the respective title, he shall suffer the punishment of imprisonment to the greatest extent and a fine of from five hundred to one thousand pesos, and disqualification to acquire the title on the same deposit.

Article 117.—The penalties established in Article 497 of the Penal Code shall be applied to those destroying or changing the place of land marks, marking the limits of the surface of the petroleum deposit.

Article 118.—In all transgressions committed against this law and the civil responsibility to which they may give cause not provided in this law, they shall be subject to the Penal Code of the Federal District.

Article 119.—When by reason of inheritance or by judicial adjudication in payment of a debt, any foreigner may acquire property or real rights upon a concession of a petroleum deposit, he shall present within the term of six months, before the Department of Industry and Commerce, a certificate showing that he has fulfilled the requirements established in Article 27 of the Federal Constitution.

Article 120.—When by reason of inheritance or judicial adjudication the property of a concession of a petroleum deposit may come into the hands of a foreign corporation, the latter shall organize itself into a Mexican corporation within the term of six months and shall present within the same term the certificate referred to in the previous article.

Article 121.—The judicial authorities in charge of the inheritance or adjudicative proceedings referred to in the two previous Articles shall give timely information to the Department of Industry and Commerce of the existence of such cases.

Article 122.—The Executive of the nation shall promote through the public attorney the securing of the properties and rights possessed or acquired in violation of the rules established in Articles 119 and 120. The property seized shall become the property of the nation.

Article 123.—Within the term of three years counted from the issuance of the title the Department of Industry and Commerce shall order the nullity of the same if the title was acquired through fraud or trickery. The precepts established in this Article shall not injure the right of a third party to declare the nullity of the title.

(To Be Concluded)

On February 24th arbor day was celebrated in the State of Tamaulipas. The school pupils and others took part in the planting displays, combats of flowers, etc.

FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

(*Concluded from page* 22)

Christmas and *arrived in Mexico City on the* 17th *of January,* thirteen days before this article appeared in the *Sun,* his arrival being heavily displayed in the daily papers. This is only a type of the various misstatements made in this connection.

"The pernicious I. W. W."

This is a bugaboo, pure and simple.

"In Yucatan Salvador Alvarado was elected by the vote of the I. W. W."

General Salvador Alvarado was appointed Governor of Yucatan by President Carranza. A new Governor (Carlos Castro Morales) has been elected, and General Alvarado has engaged in other important governmental work.

"The failure of the corn crop."

The corn crop, it is true, was a failure in the elevated plateau regions of the central portion of the Republic, but in all the subtropical and the coast regions the crop was as it is always, abundant. Difficulty of transportation over the mountain ranges which separate the plateau region from the coast on both sides is one of the reasons why this article of food is scarce in the interior. This, however, is being remedied rapidly by the purchase and shipment of corn from the United States. The Governor of Texas recently offered to supply all the corn needed to Mexico and the matter of food is well in hand.

"General Gonzales has an American wife."

General Gonzales' wife is a Mexican. This concluding misstatement is a type of the entire article, and shows how much dependence can be placed upon other statements made by this correspondent. If he really visited Mexico he could have ascertained the truth regarding General Gonzales, regarding President Carranza's presence in the city, or regarding the members of the cabinet, in five minutes' time. The truth regarding the greater portion of his misstatement could also have been ascertained quite as readily.

The *Sun* correspondent deprecates the attitude of a portion of the Mexican press in disseminating pro-German propaganda, but ignores the fact that this very article will be seized upon by that press and spread broadcast as a specimen of the malicious falsification regarding Mexico which the people of that country are asked to believe is evidence of the antagonistic attitude of the entire United States.

As a typical specimen of pro-German propaganda the Sun *article has seldom, if ever, been equalled.*

Governor Espinosa Mireles of the State of Coahuila, proposes to establish a school for the instruction of newsboys in the city of Staltillo. Baths and amusements will be provided, as well as classes in various educational branches.

To Manufacturers, Exporters and Importers in the United States

Americans living abroad introduce American goods, create a demand and make a market. They develop the native products and ship to their country. They build railroads, open mines, utilize water powers, develop oil fields, make plantations, establish factories and construct public works. They are advance agents for foreign business and they get it. They are trade missionaries, always at work. They have the spirit of the pioneers who made the great West. They should have the heartiest support and co-operation of their government and people at home.

The American residents of Mexico City on November 8, 1917, incorporated the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico to promote international trade, and furnish a reliable channel of communication. They are trying to meet German activities here. They are preparing for future expansion. Every manufacturer, exporter and importer in the United States should become a member of this Chamber, in self interest and common interest. It makes for restoration of peace and development of trade in this naturally rich country.

Write for information.

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January 1, 1918.

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New Law Taxing Oil Land Leases

ELSEWHERE is given the complete text of the law now in force taxing oil-land leases. In explanation of the figures therein given it should be stated that the tax on land leases, when reduced to American terms, ranges from 10 cents per acre upward, according to the amount of the rental, and will seldom reach 20 cents per acre. A tax of ten per cent on a rental of five pesos per hectare means an annual tax of just ten cents gold per acre—a hectare being two and one-half acres and ten per cent of five pesos being 50 centavos, or 25 cents American gold.

Recent statistics compiled by the Department of Industry and Commerce show that there is a grand total of 1,625,948 hectares (4,064,870 acres) of petroleum lands now under lease. Of this immense area, 170,381 hectares pay no rental whatever. A total of 1,330,196 hectares, or 3,325,490 acres, pay a rental of less than $5 per hectare, the average being 88 cents Mexican money, or 44 cents American gold. A total of 55,336 hectares pays an annual rental varying from $5 to $10 per hectare, the average being $6.01. A total of 70,035 hectares pays over $10 per hectare, the average being $69.78.

The entire area under rental pays a total annual rental of $6,398,066.45, or an average of $3.93 per hectare. The equivalent in American gold is about 71 cents per acre. But as will be seen, by far the greater portion of the oil lands—nearly 85 per cent—pay an average of but 88 centavos per hectare. The tax, however, is based upon a minimum rental of $5 per hectare, which is the equivalent of ten cents American gold per acre. The higher rate of taxation upon the small percentage subject thereto falls upon but a small number of lessees and upon producing lands well capable of paying it.

This tax of ten cents an acre upon more then eight-tenths of the oil lands is so small by comparison with the taxes paid by oil landowners in this country as to be almost negligible. To maintain that it is "confiscatory," or even onerous, is without foundation.

In California, for example, oil-producing land is assessed at a valuation of *one thousand dollars per acre!* The State tax rate is 39 cents on the $100, which calls for the payment by the owner of $3.90 per acre annually. But the county tax rates in California are several times as much as the State rate—from three to five times as much. Taking it at three times as much—which it is in the oil-producing counties—and the owner or lessee is called on to pay something like $11.70 an acre annually!

The reason for making this new law applicable to leases effected prior to May 1, 1917, is that on that date the constitutional provision nationalizing the oil went into force, and legislation to carry that provision into effect has not yet been enacted, though it is under consideration, as already published. There has been no cancellation of contracts or leases.

The Boy Scouts In Mexico

THE Boy Scout movement was introduced some time ago into Mexico and has found great favor in many of the States. The youths who have gone into it have developed great enthusiasm as well as aptitude and thousands have been enrolled.

In this issue of THE REVIEW will be found some very interesting illustrations of various features of the activities of the Scouts. Of especial interest in one showing the novel construction of a swinging bridge of apparently fragile character across a deep ravine. That the Scouts are good horsemen is also proven, while the "line-up" along an ancient stone aqueduct is picturesque to a degree. The group which is being received by the President of the Republic shows what a manly-looking body they are and is a distinct testimonial to the character of the rising generation under Revolutionary auspices.

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Incorrect Reports of Property "Confiscation"

THE Tampico correspondent of the New York *Evening Post* recently made the statement that the Mexican Government had "confiscated" the Tehuantepec Railroad and other properties of the Lord Cowdray (Pearson) interests on the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, and had followed this by seizing the electric light and railway system, etc., of the same parties in the city of Vera Cruz.

As already explained in THE REVIEW, the taking back of the Tehuantepec Railway properties, operated under lease by the Cowdray interests, was entirely in accord with the terms of the original agreement entered into with a former Mexican administration—that of Diaz. The rescission of the contract was by mutual consent, each party receiving what was its due. The Tehuantepec Railway and appurtenances *have at all times been the property of the Mexican Government*, the Pearsons merely occupying the position of lessees under an agreement terminable by mutual consent, in accordance with the usual practice. There was nothing in the nature of confiscation in this settlement, as is readily demonstrable.

Regarding the Vera Cruz property, Secretary of Foreign Relations Candido Aguilar was communicated with as to the correctness of the assertion of the *Post* correspondent, and replied as follows:

MEXICO CITY, *March* 14, 1918.

YGNACIO BONILLAS,
Mexican Ambassador, Washington:

The Governor of Vera Cruz informs me that it is untrue that the Pearson (Cowdray) properties (electric lights, telephones and tramways) have been taken over, as referred to in your telegram of the 9th.

(Signed) C. AGUILAR,
Secretary of Foreign Relations

A Commonplace Truth

IT is a strange thing that it be not yet a commonplace truth to say that no nation can ever have the right to govern another nation; that such a government has no other foundation than force, which is also the foundation of brigandage and tyranny; of all tyrannies the most cruel, the most intolerable, and the one which leaves the least resources to the oppressed. For a multitude does not calculate, does not feel remorse, and it bestows on itself glory when all that it deserves is shame.—TURGOT.

A special commission has been appointed to study the question of issuing patents and the fees to be charged therefor.

Belgium's New Minister

Is Cordially Welcomed When He Presents His Credentials to President Carranza at the National Palace

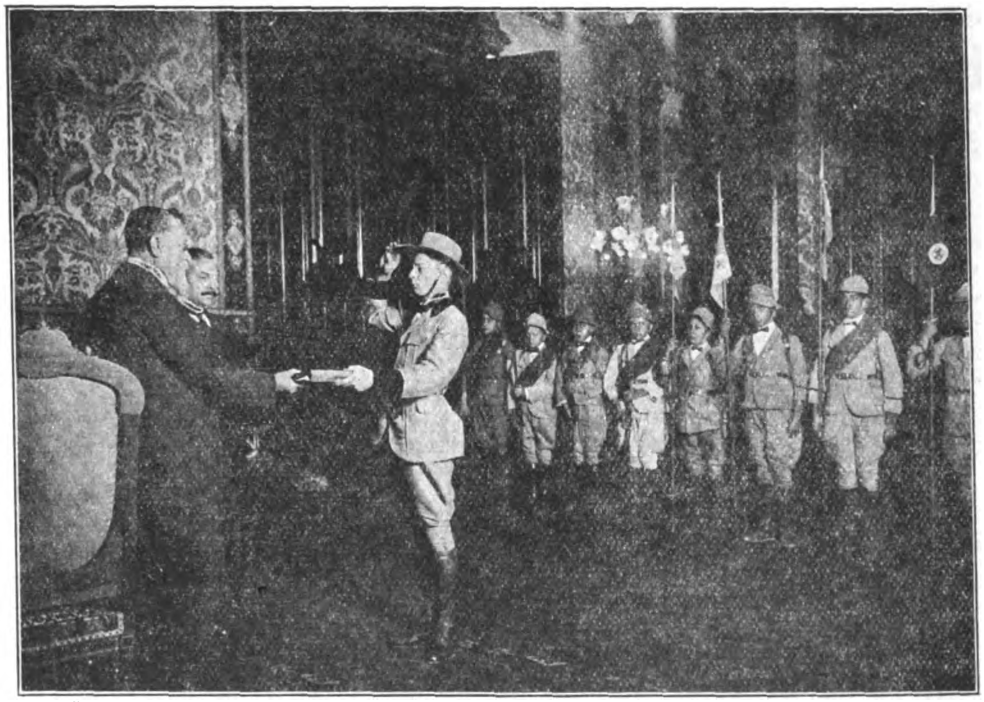
ON MARCH 8th the new Belgian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Mexico, Señor Jules le Jeune, was formally received at a public audience by President Carranza, to whom the credentials of the new minister were presented on behalf of King Albert I. The ceremonies took place in the Salon Hidalgo, of the National Palace, and were participated in by members of the Cabinet, of the General Staff, and many military and civil officials. After the presentation President Carranza addressed the Minister as follows:

"EXCELLENCY: It is with special pleasure that I receive from Your Excellency's hands the letter of His Majesty King Albert I of Belgium, by which you are accredited as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

"It is a great pleasure for me to express to Your Excellency on this solemn occasion, when Belgium in taking up arms, as Your Excellency affirms, in defense of her neutrality, her honor and her independence, has fulfilled the most heroic act of modern times for the glory and example of weak nations. The countries which are not ready to shed the last drop of blood in defense of their autonomy and their institutions have no right to be counted in the concert of free nations, and those which do not measure dangers or curtail sacrifices to preserve them, although they may be defeated and chained, may rest assured of the advent of the bright day of their liberty, because they are worthy of it, because they live for it and were born to enjoy it.

"Belgium should be proud of her conduct and satisfied of her sacrifices, because she knew how to fulfill her highest and most patriotic duties, making herself worthy of universal admiration and even of the respect and consideration of her own enemies. It is to be hoped that the bloody and terrible tragedy now being enacted in Europe may not prove fruitless and that it may reveal new horizons in international life, firmly assuring the equality of all nations, whatever their importance might be, permitting them the free enjoyment of their sovereignty and of their rights, and that instead of the constant struggle among the countries of adverse interests, the most unconditional respect, frank and loyal cooperation may ensue for the benefit of their own inhabitants and those of other nations of the world.

"I sincerely appreciate the friendly sentiments of Your Sovereign, as well as the kind wishes manifested by him for the prosperity of the United States of Mexico, and I beg Your Excellency to accept my most cordial and fervent wishes for the happiness of His Majesty King Albert I of Belgium and for the personal welfare of Your Excellency. It shall be gratifying for my government to aid your efforts in strengthening the relations between our respective countries, and in giving you this assurance I take pleasure in expressing my best wishes that your country may regain with its liberty, its old splendor protected by an everlasting and fruitful peace."



Mexican Boy Scouts Received by President Carranza

Annual Output of Petroleum

Over Fifty-Five Million Barrels Produced in 1917

THE Technical Commission of the Department of Petroleum under the Secretary of Industry and Commerce has collected the most recent statistics regarding the production of petroleum in the Republic, and which are of great interest.

During the year 1917 a total of 79 wells were bored in the oil regions of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Panuco, Topila, Ozualama, Tuxpam and Ixhuatlan, of which 43 are producing. The potential production of these wells is 235,250 barrels daily.

With the opening of these new wells, the total in the entire Republic reached 919, of which 329 are productive, 362 unproductive, 141 are in process of sinking, and 77 have been localized.

The potential production of these wells is 1,337,012 barrels daily. In 1901 Mexico produced 10,345 barrels of crude oil annually. In 1910 the production had risen to 3,634,080 barrels, while in 1917 the total production was the enormous quantity of 55,292,770 barrels.

The Tuxpam region leads in the amount produced, the total for the year having been 34,500,000 barrels. Tampico produced 20,500,000 barrels and Minititlan yielded 23,500,000 barrels.

The companies established in Mexico and which produced the largest amount of petroleum during the past year were, first, the Huasteca Petroleum Company, which extracted from its wells more than 16,000,000 of barrels; the Aguila Company, which produced nearly a like amount.

During the year 1917 the exportations of oil reached 6,500,000 metric tons of petroleum, while the value of the crude and refined products amounted to over $53,000,000 Mexican gold, a notable increase over the figures for 1916.

Petroleum in Lower California

A petition has been presented to the Secretary of Industry and Commerce for permission to exploit the deposits of petroleum said to exist around the bay of Ensenada, in the Territory of Lower California. It is reported that a considerable quantity of oil is now being taken therefrom. The petitioners announce their intention to install adequate machinery and appliances for development upon a large scale. Their request is now under consideration. On the opposite side of the isthmus from Ensenada, oil has been discovered upon the island of San Angel de la Guardia, and elsewhere along the gulf shore, thus indicating the presence of petroleum in an extensive area.

Retail Prices in Mexico City

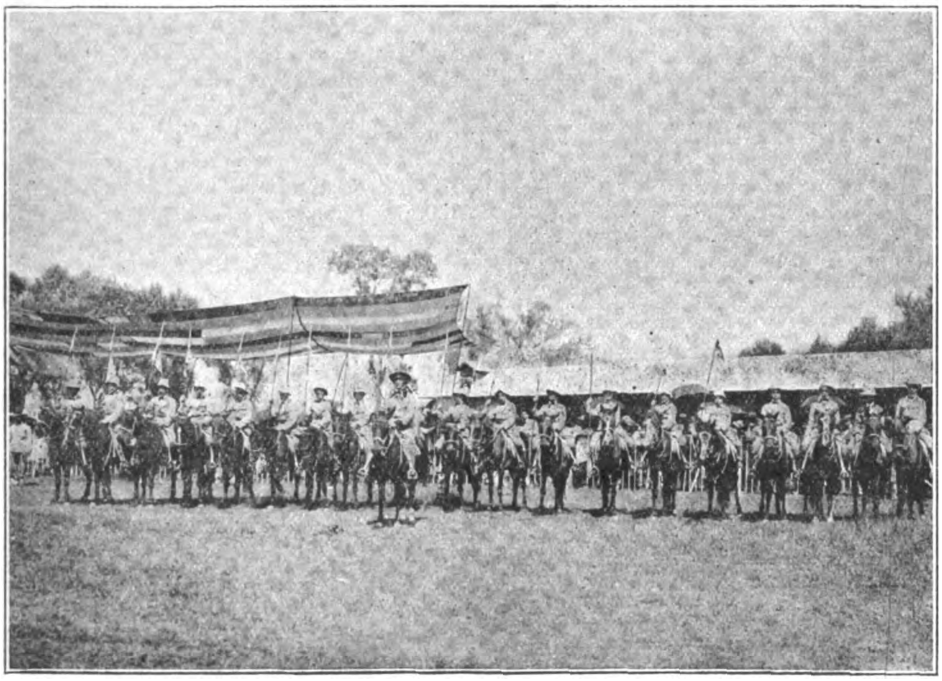
FROM the latest Mexico City newspapers received are taken the following retail prices for leading articles of food. They compare favorably with rates in this country:

Starch, 17¼c. per lb.
Sugar, 12 to 17¼c. per lb.
Dried meat, 30c. per lb.
Flour, 6½ to 7c. per lb.
Potatoes, 4¼ to 5½c. per lb.
Rice, 9 to 12c. per lb.
Coffee (green), 3¼ to 9 2/3c. per lb.
Beans, 8 1/3 to 11c. per lb.
Corn, 4 2/3c. per lb.
Macaroni, etc., 13¾ to 18½c. per lb.

Mexico's Foreign Trade

Great Variety of Natural Products That Are Shipped Abroad and Returned in Manufactured Condition

FULLY eighty per cent of the foreign trade of Mexico is with the United States and undoubtedly will always remain so, or at least for an indefinite period. There are two chief reasons for this—geographical situation and the mutual needs of each country for the natural as well as the manufactured products of the other. Mexico produces raw materials in the shape of minerals of various kinds, hard woods, fiber, rubber, hides, oil and a great variety of other products, for which there is a heavy and constant demand not only in the United States, but in other countries as well. On the other hand, many of the natural products of Mexico find their way, after having entered into various forms of manufactures, back to the country where they originated, and where they are consumed at greatly enhanced cost to the producer.



Mexican Boy Scouts as Cavalry

The list of articles produced in and exported from Mexico is a long and interesting one. First come the metals—gold, silver, copper, lead, antimony, tin, zinc, mercury, sulphur, plumbago, mica, asbestos, salt, etc. Petroleum with its by-products is one of the leading articles of export, having become so within the past twenty years and constantly increasing until it promises to take the foremost rank in this direction. Of vegetable products there is a large export trade in cotton, coffee, rubber, chicle, chick peas, cocoanuts, sugar and molasses, fibers of various kinds, tobacco, dyewoods, fresh fruits, vegetable oils, cocoa, mahogany and other hard woods, etc., while hides and skins are exported in quantity.

On the other hand, Mexico imports largely grain, cotton manufactured goods, boots and shoes, woolen cloths and clothing, paper, lumber, machinery of all kinds, iron, steel, wire, furniture, bacon and lard, agricultural implements, automobiles, vehicles of all kinds, etc.

Travelers and investigators who are familiar with all portions of the world have declared, and support the declaration with the facts, that Mexico occupies the unique position of possessing either actually or potentially natural resources in sufficient variety and extent to supply every demand of the human race for every possible purpose. It has been maintained and demonstrated that if Mexico were to be completely isolated from the remainder of the world, she could, if she would, within a comparatively brief period become entirely self-supporting, supplying herself with everything needed for the most luxurious and advanced standards of existence. To do this would, of course, necessitate a considerably more advanced stage of development along many lines, and especially in manufacturing, than is now the case. But the potentialities are there, and great strides have already been taken and are being taken in the direction of the proper development of the wonderfully varied and extensive natural resources of this wonderfully endowed region—the "treasure house of the world," as the noted Baron Von Humboldt so aptly termed Mexico.

At the present time, as stated, by far the greater portion of the foreign trade of Mexico is carried on with the United States. Indeed, it is a fact that there are no direct or exclusive lines of ocean transportation connecting the ports of either the eastern or the western coast with any other country except the United States. Vera Cruz and Tampico are ports of call for a single line making regular trips across the Atlantic, but which also includes Havana and certain American ports in its itinerary. Such a thing as an entire cargo of Mexican products on one of these steamers is unheard of, and the total amount of traffic handled by them is inconsiderable by comparison with that which is carried on directly with the United States.

So, too, on the west coast. Connection is made at several points by foreign-owned vessels with the Orient, and also with the Pacific coast of the United States and of South America; but the transportation of a full cargo of Mexican products on any regular steamer is as rare, if indeed it ever happens, as on the east coast. In this connection the shipment of petroleum products is not referred to, since from their very nature entire cargoes are not infrequently dispatched to other than American ports. The greater portion of the immense and constantly increasing exportation of petroleum goes directly to the United States, much of it being refined there and subsequently shipped to all quarters of the globe.

The major portion of the traffic between Mexico and the United States is carried on by rail, the various trunk lines which traverse the Republic from north to south having their terminals at the border, where they connect with the vast railway system of the United States.

The Mexican railways extend to the far south and, with their branch lines, may be said to drain all portions of the country. The lines which touch the United States at Brownsville, Laredo, Eagle Pass, and El Paso have connections with the seaports of the Gulf of Mexico and of the Pacific Ocean to the south, while the Southern Pacific of Mexico, which is the only through line tapping the west coast, traverses one of the most productive portions of Mexico, and, with its vast system on the American side of the border, is able to deliver products of every kind in any portion of the United States or Canada without breaking bulk or trans-shipping cargo. A very extensive foreign trade has been built up by this line in the few years during which it has made the States of Sonora, Sinaloa and Nayarit accessible for direct rail communication.

The latest reports indicate a constant and rapid increase in the trade between the two neighboring countries at the various border points, notably in the shipments of copper, lead, and other metals.

Efforts are being made to bring Mexico into closer touch with her South American neighbors and to extend the interchange of commodities between them. There has always been a lack of direct means of communication between the ports of North and South America, and it has frequently been the case that passengers as well as freight between such ports have been obliged to go out of their way and first cross the ocean to some European port, returning thence to this side of the Atlantic before their destination could be reached.

When it is considered that the people of Mexico and many of the Central and South

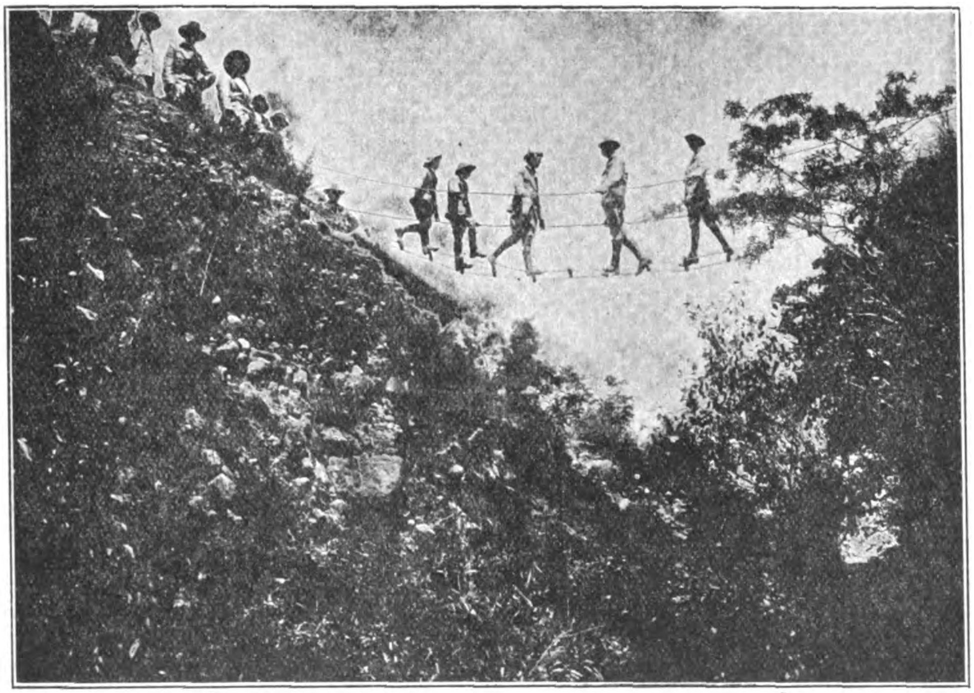
(Concluded on page 11)

Land and Agriculture

Systematic Steps for Securing a Large Additional Crop Area During the Coming Season

THE preliminary work has been accomplished in the organization of a company with sufficient capital to undertake the extensive cultivation of the soil in various States throughout the Republic for the production of corn and wheat in sufficient amount to remove all danger of future shortage. The company will operate in those sections where crop failure are unknown, as in Vera Cruz, where a tract of 25,000 acres in one body will be put under cultivation. Modern machinery will be used, and as the Government extends this assistance in this direction the best results are anticipated.

The Government of the State of Michoacan has issued instructions to the municipal authorities in all portions of the State to proceed immediately with the distribution of unoccupied lands among the people wishing them, in order that no time may be lost in preparing for the coming crop. This distribution will be subject to future regulation by the Agrarian Commission and to arrangement regarding their purchase from the owners or their rental therefrom.



Suspension Bridge Constructed by Mexican Boy Scouts

The Congress of the State of Mexico will probably adopt the same law governing the use of unoccupied lands in that State that was recently adopted by the National Chamber of Deputies for the Federal District and the Territories. This law provides for the allotment of such lands to those desiring to make use of them for agricultural purposes.

The Government proposes to lease for a period of ten years a tract of several thousand acres of fertile land contiguous to the city of Mexico and which is unutilized owing to protracted litigation. The plan is to allow its cultivation and the production of crops of corn, so much needed for food in the capital city.

Large quantities of grain are being received at Mazatlan and other west coast ports from the Islands of Tres Marias, where a penal settlement is maintained which is largely devoted to agriculture. The statement has been recently published that these islands are barren and of a desert character, but the opposite is the truth, as there are extensive areas of agricultural land as well as forests of valuable woods which yield much lumber.

Meetings of farmers and officials have recently been held in the State of Tamaulipas for the purpose of encouraging the extension of the production of corn and other food crops under Government auspices in the direction of providing modern machinery, instruction in modern methods, etc.

The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture reports receiving numerous applications from people in the States of Jalisco and Sinaloa, also in the Territory of Lower California, for the allotment of lands for purposes of cultivation. These applications are being granted as rapidly as the preliminaries can be complied with.

The Government of Lower California is surveying and subdividing some extensive tracts of agricultural land the concessions for which have been forfeited owing to failure to comply with the contracts.

Allotments have been made to a large number of applicants in the State of Chiapas for the cultivation of unoccupied lands. The applications vary from 7½ acres to 25, the latter being the largest on the list.

A proposition to establish an agricultural experimental station in the Laguna district of the States of Coahuila and Durango is under way. The leading cotton growers are in favor of it and have offered to contribute to its support. The National Agricultural Congress of the Laguna District has taken the matter up and it will be pushed to completion as rapidly as possible.

Investigators sent out by the Biological Bureau of the Department of Agriculture report the discovery in the States of Colima and Vera Cruz of numerous specimens of the "Bread Tree," which is common in the islands of the southern seas. It is proposed to propagate and plant these trees upon a large scale, thereby forming an important addition to the food resources of the tropical portions of the Republic.

A petition has been presented to the Secretary of Agriculture and Development for the allotment of lands at Maroncari, in the State of Sonora, for the purpose of establishing agricultural colonies thereon.

A petition has been presented to the Department of Fomento for permission to develop the resources of certain islands in the Gulf of California which contain agricultural lands.

One hundred Italian families have recently been allotted lands at Cuautitlan, in the vicinity of Mexico City, in order that they may carry on their operations more successfully than in their former location in the northern portion of the Republic.

The President of the Republic recently signed the necessary authorizations for the restitution of community lands in the States of Michoacan, Mexico, Puebla, Tlaxcala, Campeche, Vera Cruz, Hidalgo and Guanajuato.

The Secretary of Industry and Commerce has had eight freight cars allotted for the transportation of tractors and other agricultural machinery to various points, where the farmers are to be instructed in its use and given opportunity to acquire the modern devices at low rates and on easy terms of payment.

The Department of Agriculture has issued information regarding many reptiles and animals that are usually killed but which are of value in many respects and should be preserved. Many of these are instrumental in lessening the insect pests and other enemies of agriculturists and their preservation is urged instead of their destruction.

Indications are that the cotton crop of the Laguna district of the States of Coahuila and Durango will be three times as great as for the past year, when it amounted to over 500,000 bales of a total value of ten millions of dollars. None of it was exported, but it was all consumed in the factories of the Republic.

The National Agrarian Commission has under discussion a law for the indemnification of land owners whose property or a portion thereof may be declared a public utility and taken over by the Government for allotment to those desiring to cultivate the same. The object is to arrive at an equitable arrangement with justice to all concerned.

The crop of "garbanzas," or chick peas, on the west coast will be larger this year than last, but prices are showing an increase owing to the demand on account of the war. Present quotations are from 2¾ to 3¼ cents per pound.

Railways and Transportation

Large Sums Earned by the Railroads Over Operating Expenses and Turned Into the National Treasury

During the first ten days of the month of January the National Railway lines turned into the treasury of the Republic the sum of $250,000 as a balance after the payment of salaries and operating expenses, the amount so deposited during the entire month having been upward of three-quarters of a million dollars. The same experience was repeated in February, although it was a "short" month, the surplus having been $750,000.

Announcement is made that negotiations are well under way for the securing of a loan of sufficient amount to rehabilitate the Constitutionalist Railways completely and to construct various new branches in districts needing them for proper development. The loan is to be secured by the receipts of the lines, which for some time have been considerably in excess of the expenses. The total amount needed is placed at the equivalent of $150,000,000 American gold.

New regulations governing the operation of the Constitutionalist Railways are in preparation, which will provide many improvements, including the extension of lines to various portions of the Republic which have been held back from lack of transportation.

The railway line between Manzanillo and Guadalajara, which had fallen into disrepair owing to the revolutionary troubles now ended, is to be entirely reconstructed. Many new cars have been obtained and traffic will soon be normal in every respect.

The necessary funds have been appropriated for the reconstruction of the railway station in Monterrey that was destroyed during the Revolution. It was one of the best of its kind in the Republic and will be completely restored.

The concession for the construction of a railway connecting the cities of Parral and Durango, granted in 1908, has been declared forfeited by the Secretary of Communications for failure by the concessionaires to comply with their agreement.

A new line of railway eighty kilometers in extent is to be constructed extending from the station of Arriaga, on the Pan-American road in Chiapas to within a short distance of the Guatemala frontier and opening up a rich agricultural region to development.

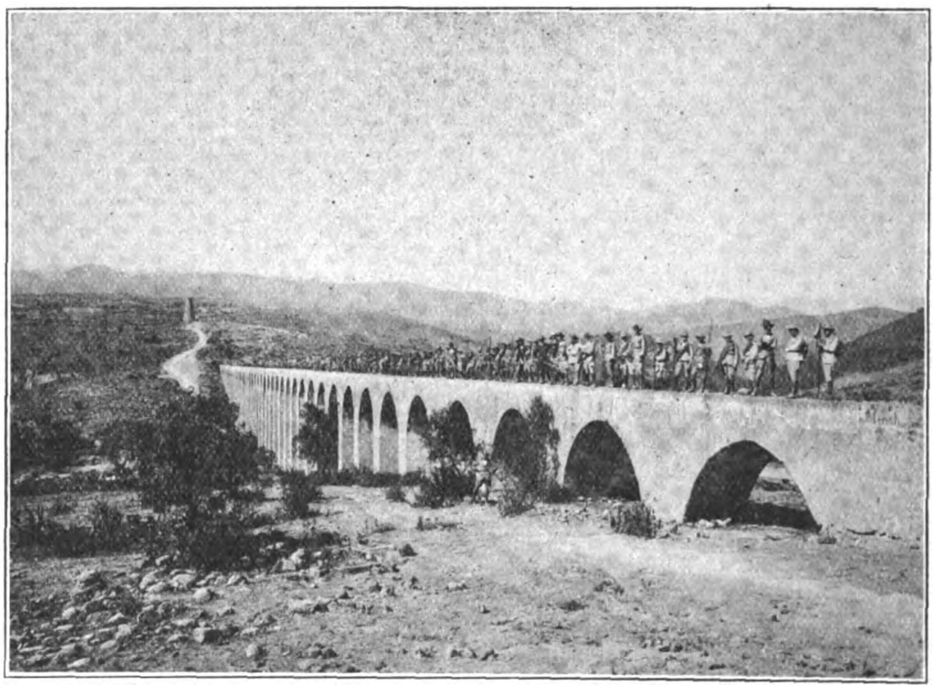
Since the consolidation of the Isthmus and Pan-American railways with the National Lines, many improvements have been made and traffic has been greatly increased. Much new trackage has been laid and the necessary repairs completed to put the lines in first-class condition.

A large amount of rolling stock of various kinds has been returned to the railway management by military commanders who now have no further use for it, owing to the pacification of the districts controlled by them. Five locomotives and sixty cars were thus recently returned in the State of Chihuahua alone.

The Development Company of the Southeast, formed some time ago in Yucatan with large capital, is seeking to obtain permission to construct a line of railway directly connecting that State with the national capital and other portions of the Republic. At present the only communication is by steamers via Vera Cruz, and the development of that portion of the country has been greatly retarded in consequence.

The Mexican press is emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive system of port works upon the Pacific coast, in order to accommodate the commerce made possible through the completion of the Panama canal and the increased demand for Mexico's natural products.

A new style of electric passenger coach has just been completed in the railway shops at Aguascalientes, entirely by Mexican mechanics, which has been demonstrated to be the best equipped of any in use in the Republic and of foreign manufacture. They will be turned out upon a large scale hereafter.



Mexican Boy Scouts Lined up on Ancient Acqueduct

The national government has provided additional facilities for the more rapid handling of freight at the port of Progreso, in order to obviate the delay that has occurred in the past.

The Department of Communications and Public Works has authorized the construction of a wharf and other shipping facilities at the port of Lobos, in the vicinity of Tampico, to accommodate the extensive shipments of petroleum from that point.

Export Taxes on Metals and Materials

Under date of January 31, 1918, the Treasury Department in accordance with law established the export taxes on metals and minerals for the month of February as follows:

Gold—In ores or concentrates, $93.33 per kilo, or the equivalent of $21.46 American gold per pound.

Silver—In bars or ingots, $2.853 per kilo, or 6.56 cents per pound American gold.

Silver—In ores or concentrates, $3.994 per kilo, or 91.8 cents per pound American gold.

Copper—In bars or ingots, 5.181 cents per kilo, or 1.19 cents per pound American gold.

Copper—In ores or concentrates, 6.217 cents per kilo, or 1.42 cents American gold per pound.

Lead—In bars or ingots, 0.634 of a cent per kilo, or 0.145 of one cent per pound American gold.

Lead—In ores or concentrates, 0.845 of a cent per kilo, or 0.194 of one cent per pound American gold.

Zinc—In bars or ingots, 0.250 of a cent per kilo, or 0.0575 of one cent per pound American gold.

Zinc—In ores or concentrates, 0.333 of a cent per kilo, or 0.076 of one cent per pound American gold.

Tin—In bars or ingots, 11.373 cents per kilo, or 2.616 cents per pound American gold.

Tin—In ores or concentrates, 13.651 cents per kilo, or 3.139 cents per pound American gold.

Antimony—In bars or ingots, 0.650 of one cent per kilo, or 0.0149 of one cent per pound American gold.

Antimony—In ores or concentrates, 0.902 of one cent per kilo, or 0.020 of one cent per pound American gold.

Tungsten—In ores or concentrates, 19.762 cents per kilo, or 4.545 cents per pound American gold.

Graphite—Uncrystallized, 0.358 of one cent per kilo, or 0.082 of one cent per pound American gold. Refined, 0.516 of one cent per kilo, or 0.0118 of one cent per pound American gold.

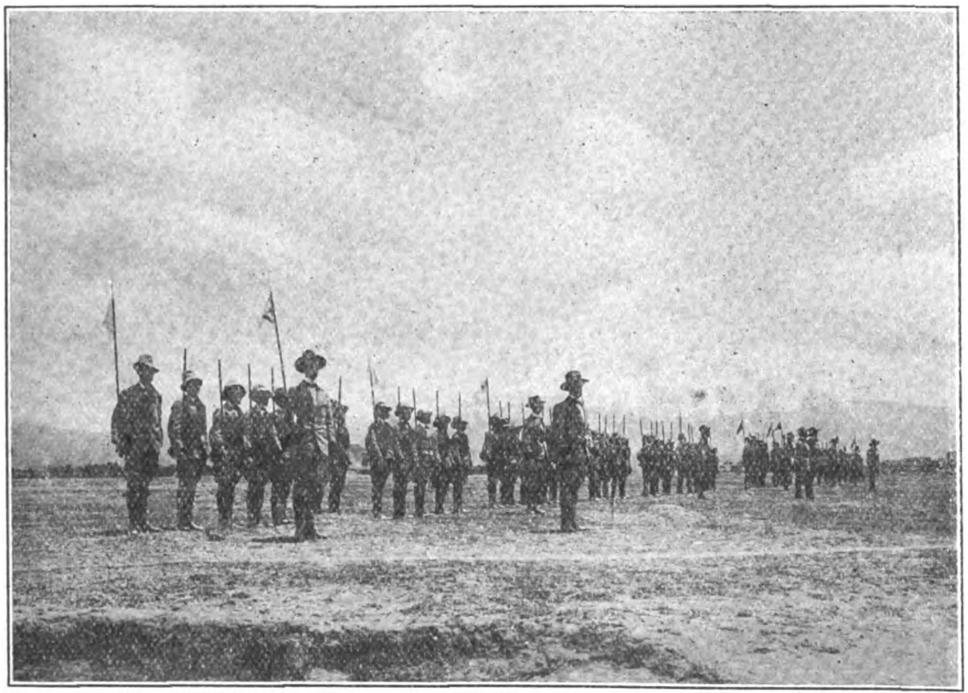
Mercury—20.668 cents per kilo, or 4.753 cents per pound American gold.

Oil and Mining Progress

Many New Denunciations Filed for Mining Development—Decrease in Petroleum Exports Owing to Lack of Shipping

THE exportations of petroleum show a decrease from the concluding months of last year, but this is entirely owing to the lack of shipping, many vessels engaged in the oil trade having been taken over by the Allies and put into other branches of the service. It is estimated that there has been a decrease of exportation of half a million barrels for the first two months of 1918 by comparison with the last two of 1917, but the supply is abundant and is available at all times for shipment whenever vessels are provided by the foreign owners.

During the last six months of 1917 the Department of Industry and Commerce issued 320 mining titles, the major portion being for the exploitation of deposits of gold, silver and copper, though a number included lead, zinc, iron, etc. These new titles were distributed as follows: Sonora, 117; Nuevo Leon, 45; Chihuahua, 31; Durango, 26; Jalisco, 16; San Luis Potosi, 13; Zacatecas, 11; Hidalgo, 10; Michoacan, 10; Coahuila, 9; Guanajuato, 7; Sinaloa, 6; Oaxaca, 5; Puebla, 5; Nayarit, 3; Queretaro, 3; Tamaulipas, 3; Lower California, 3; Mexico, 2; Federal District, 1. It will be observed that the greater portion are in the States of Sonora, Durango and Chihuahua, which are widely declared by misinformed periodicals to be in a state of complete unrest.



Mexican Boy Scouts Deployed as Infantry

The copper mines at Cananea are in the full tide of activity, several thousand men now being employed. Six of the 250-ton furnaces are in operation and others are being prepared as rapidly as possible. The high price of copper on account of the war has stimulated the demand and the leading copper mines of the Republic are resuming operations.

By special decree and owing to the decrease in the price of zinc in the United States, the export tax thereon has been reduced to one per cent of its value, whether in bars of concentrates. The duties on other metals remain the same—3 per cent of the value of the metal. Mexico is a heavy producer of zinc, largely from the State of Coahuila.

Steps are being taken to secure the importation from Holland of large quantities of cyanide which have been embargoed in that country, but which are needed for the use of mines in Mexico, for which purpose they were contracted for before the commencement of the European war. It is not thought there will be great difficulty in securing the chemical, as its use is imperative.

Propositions have been made by responsible Japanese to open a number of mines in various portions of the Republic that have been idle for extended periods. They offer to import all the dynamite, cyanide and other essentials for mining and reducing the ores, and the terms proposed are such that it is expected some of the offers will be accepted.

The Mexican Fuel Oil Company, in the Tepetate district of Panuco, recently brought in a new well with a flow of 30,000 barrels of oil daily.

The Department of Industry and Commerce announces the receipt of information that all the mines in the State of Guanajuato have resumed operations and are producing ore in large quantities.

One of the large petroleum companies has offered to supply all dependencies of the national government with gasoline and other oil products at 20 per cent less than the market rate when in bulk and at 15 per cent when in packages. The offer has been accepted.

CONSUL-GENERAL BRAVO WELCOMED IN VICTORIA

Warmly Greeted by Prominent Business Men in British Columbia

Victoria (B. C.) Colonist, March 1

SENOR SORIANO BRAVO, who has been appointed Consul General for Mexico in Canada, is a visitor in the city and this morning will wait upon Lieut.-Governor Sir Frank Barnard at the Parliament Building, accompanied by Mr. E. J. Leveson, of Vancouver, who will introduce him to His Honor. Yesterday at the invitation of the British Columbia Mexico Company, which was represented by Mr. Leveson, an informal meeting was held at the Empress Hotel, when Señor Bravo was introduced to a number of prominent Victorians, among whom were: Dr. S. F. Tolmie, M. P., Mr. John Cochrane, president of the Canadian Club; Mr. Norman Yarrow, of Yarrows, Ltd., and Messrs. J. Musgrave, J. H. B. Rickaby, Mexican vice-consul, J. A. Mara, J. O. Cameron, J. L. Beckwith, Alfred Carmichael and G. Dawson. Letters of regret at their inability to be present were received from Mayor Todd, Mr. R. P. Butchart and Mr. A. C. Flumerfelt. In introducing the Consul-General, Mr. Leveson, of Vancouver, said:

"We have asked you to join with us in extending a welcome to Señor Soriano Bravo, who has been appointed Consul-General for Mexico to Canada, and who has come over from Vancouver to pay his respects to His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor here tomorrow.

"Señor Bravo has for some years represented his country as Consul at New Orleans, and now he is up here in Canada to investigate and encourage the many possibilities of trade between Mexico and ourselves.

"Through some years of internal trouble and dissension, disturbing the economic condition of her territories, Mexico is emerging into a period of reconstruction of her social, financial and commercial conditions; and we feel sure that you will be glad to hear first hand some of the interesting facts in relation thereto which her official representatives has to tell us.

"It has been a great pleasure to me personally to meet Señor Bravo, not only in his official capacity, but as a personal friend of the President of Mexico, Señor Carranza, who honored me, through his Finance Minister, Sr. Lic. Luis Cabrera, with a message to the Premier of Canada last year, assuring Canada of Mexico's adherence to strict and sincere neutrality in this period of war, when some of the press of the United States was hinting at the reverse.

"The British Columbia Mexico Company, in which I am interested, is developing properties productive of foodstuffs on the West Coast of Mexico, and we hope in the near future to become pioneers in the resuscitation of trade between the two countries, each of which is capable of supplying the other's wants. We also look forward to the possibility of direct water transportation between

(*Concluded on page* 11)

Exhibit of Mexican Products

An Interesting Display Now Open at St. Louis—Others to Be Established in This Country and Elsewhere

THE Secretary of Industry and Commerce of Mexico, through the kind invitation of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce, has installed in the latter's offices an exhibit of Mexican products with the idea of bringing into the notice of the American importer of raw materials from that country some of the resources of Mexico.

Although the exhibit is at present limited in space it includes samples of almost every Mexican product. There are fibres such as Sisal or Henequen, Jubiguy, Ixtle, Zapupe, Ramié, Lechuguilla, Pochote, Jonote, Zacatón, etc. Also ropes, twines, bags and the like made of different fibres are shown.

The mineral branch is represented by over 70 classes of different ores and minerals, including gold, silver, copper, iron, lead, onyx, marbles, coal, fuel oil, asphalt, etc. In the manufactured products there are cigars and cigarettes of over 100 varieties. Wines and cordials are also exhibited. In animal life there are many beautiful birds, including a collection of about 25 specimens: tortoise shell, mother of pearl, guano, etc. There are also a number of dye woods and dyeing raw materials shown, such as Cochinilla, Brazil wood, etc., linaloe, beeswax, vegetable wax (candelilla), rosins, sponges, sole and tanned leathers, palm leaf hats and baskets, vanilla, etc., also a fair collection of manufactured wools. Native pottery is extensively represented, including a fair collection of dishes and ornaments, etc.

The idea of this exhibit, as stated, is to bring into actual demonstration the resources of the country and to promote and encourage international trade.

The St. Louis exhibit is under the charge of Mr. C. I. Luque, who supplies information to visitors regarding the resources of the Republic and the opportunities for commercial enterprise.

The Government has directed the establishment of similar exhibits in connection with the consulates of various portions not only of this country but throughout the world, with the view to stimulate inquiry regarding the wonderful natural resources of Mexico. It is hoped that an adequate exhibit may be established in Washington, where it would undoubtedly attract great attention, and be productive of much good.

Exhibit of Mexican Products in St. Louis Chamber of Commerce

Representatives of the workingmen's syndicates and unions from all portions of the Republic were invited to attend the Workingmen's Congress to be held in Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, under cooperation of the Governor, Espinosa Mireles, who has done much to ameliorate the conditions of the workers in that State as well as elsewhere. The labor law of Coahuila is one of the most advanced in the country.

Interesting Disclosures From Palaez's Archives

ANNOUNCEMENT is made that when the Federal forces captured the town of Tantoyuca, in the State of Vera Cruz, recently, that place having been occupied as the headquarters of the bandit Palaez, not only was a large amount of arms, ammunition and provisions taken, but practically all the archives of the rebel leader were secured at the same time. The bandit forces were surprised and fled in disorder before they were able to prevent anything falling into the hands of the Government forces.

Casual examination of the archives discloses a large amount of correspondence and records revealing the source from which Palaez has been receiving supplies of arms, ammunition, etc., for the prosecution of his operations. It has always been a question as to the manner in which these supplies were obtained, but it is asserted with positiveness that the captured documents disclose that source in detail, and beyond any possibility of question or denial.

The published statements with reference to the incriminating documents do not mention any names or give any clue to the identity of the persons implicated, but a careful study is being made and other proofs obtained which will clinch the matter and place the blame where it belongs.

The work of reorganizing the military forces of the Republic is proceeding steadily and satisfactorily under the guidance of General Jacinto Treviño.

Crop Area Increased Twenty-Five Per Cent

REPORTS received from the States of Puebla, Vera Cruz, Tlaxcala, Guanajuato, Mexico, Hidalgo, Jalisco, Michoacan and others of the chief agricultural States of the Republic show that there is great activity in grain cultivation, and it is estimated that the increase in acreage for the coming season will be twenty-five per cent at least over that of previous years. By the introduction of tractors and other modern machinery and the breaking of lands not hitherto under cultivation, it is believed that under ordinary weather conditions the crops for the season of 1918 will be more abundant than ever before and sufficient to supply the entire Republic with food.

A complete reorganization of the consular system of the Republic is projected shortly, with an enlargement of the personnel and other improvements in keeping with the constant increase of the duties of such officials.

Permission has been given to various municipalities in the State of Chihuahua to organize local defense bodies for the purpose of combatting fugitive parties of bandits who give trouble in remote localities. Other States are following the example, organizing forces after the former system of rurales or mounted police.

Some very important and interesting discoveries have recently been made among the ruins at San Juan Teotihuacan, about thirty miles from Mexico City. Excavations have been made in several of the ruined pyramids, with good results, many prehistoric objects having been unearthed that throw light upon the forgotten races.

Governor Joaquin Ruiz, of the State of Tabasco, in the course of a recent report to the National officials, declares that that State is in a condition of absolute tranquillity, that there is no disturbance of any kind, and that the industrial and social life of the State is proceeding as in normal times and with perfect security.

Present-Day Mexico

An Interesting Expression of Opinion by a Foreigner From a Sympathetic and Appreciative Standpoint

BY IRENE KRANZTHOR SCHUTZ

IN the world's cornucopia of wonderful countries, Mexico constitutes one of the chief treasures; it is a wonderland, but one which must be looked at from various points of view if we wish to fully understand it. Mexico is not a wonderland merely because its wealth in natural resources is unlimited, or because its scenery, for the greater part, is of extraordinary beauty. Mexico is wonderful also because of the halo of romance with which history has surrounded her, a halo which has not vanished during the passing of centuries. Not history alone renders Mexico exceptionally interesting, but life there is permeated by a peculiar charm which often changes even a stubborn antagonist of Mexico into a friend and admirer.

To return to different points of view in connection with Mexico, mentioned before, we have the friendly point of view and the antagonistic point of view. Both friends and antagonists of Mexico often understood each other's motives for their respective attitudes toward her, but in spite of that circumstance, usually fail to convince one another by their arguments for or against that country. The friend of Mexico will uphold her in face of the hottest argument, though he may not be blind to some weak points of which the neighbor republic is not free. But he knows that the best thing to do is to remedy those faults, and not to confine himself to criticism. The trouble with the antagonist of Mexico is that he seldom helps to apply the remedy she sometimes needs, and if he does apply it, the remedy is usually too harsh. But even the antagonistic point of view regarding Mexico frequently undergoes a modification.

The kind reader must permit me to remark that if the friend of Mexico happen to be a woman, that country is so much richer for having one more true friend. When a woman takes a country into her favor, her enthusiasm for it is usually more intense and obvious than that of her brother man. Man's enthusiasm about a country or anything else may be profound, but is not always easily felt or seen, as is woman's enthusiasm. And an intense and obvious feminine enthusiasm, accompanied by some well-founded argument which might serve to give it weight, cannot help but be a very valuable asset in convincing people of the good aspects of a country, especially in our day, when woman's influence upon public opinion is felt to a greater extent than ever before.

But it is the opinion of both men and women who are friendly to Mexico that, besides the material aid necessary for her in many respects at present, Mexico needs just as much a better understanding on the part of foreigners concerning her people and their daily life, their ideals, and their strivings to attain them. People who have never lived any length of time in Mexico, and who have never come in contact with all classes of Mexicans, are not fully capable of forming and spreading opinions favorable to Mexico, for the reason that they lack real knowledge of the people and conditions there. It is good for persons hitherto unacquainted with Mexico, but interested in it, to go there, familiarize themselves with it, and bring back to the United States a more favorable opinion of the new, the reorganized Mexico—a country which deserves peace after its numerous struggles for freedom from the yoke of both foreign and native oppressors.

It is known that almost all foreigners who have lived for any length of time in Mexico, and left it for a while, wish to return as soon as it may be managed. No doubt many foreigners are enthusiastic about Mexico because life there is easier and cheaper for them than in their own country, wherever it might be; but at the same time they usually harbor a real liking for Mexico and its people, and understand them better than persons who know of them only by hearsay, or through current reports which are not always authentic. The revolutions in Mexico drew many foreigners —innocent and otherwise, it must be said—into their vortex, as revolutions will invariably do. But no sooner does the cloud of trouble begin to disappear than numbers of people begin to cross the Rio Grande again, eager to come once more under the spell of Mexico. And at present the friends of Mexico are convinced that its troubles are growing smaller every day and that a new era is dawning for the country which has passed through so many extraordinary phases of history and development. The setting for the historical scenes in Mexico may be somewhat changed now and some characteristics of the *dramatis personae* who appear might also be different in many respects from the characteristics which distinguished those personages who formerly played an important part in the great events of Mexico. But the same charm centuries old will ever pervade Mexico, irrespective of outward changes there.

Mrs. Irene Kranzthor Schutz

Perhaps some of the glamour which once surrounded Mexican high life has disappeared to a certain extent, but its place is being taken satisfactorily by a more democratic if less ostentatious form of life. The latter may some times lack the glitter of tinsel, but it is proving more beneficial for the middle as well as the lower classes of Mexicans. Be it said for the comfort of those who enjoy things aristocratic, that Mexico has not become too democratic to have lost all aristocratic flavor. Mexicans of all classes, excepting the illiterate, can easily adapt themselves to various circumstances, and are able on most occasions of being sufficiently *distingué* in society to gratify even a lover of that more aristocratic form of society which prevailed in Mexico under the Diaz régime. Besides, many Mexican refugees of the old aristocratic order are gradually returning to their native soil, but probably almost all of them are now more democratic than formerly in their sentiments —and such a change in sentiment, even if slow, must surely be of benefit to their country as well as to themselves.

With prosperity returning to Mexico, it is once more possible for its people to pay greater attention to the cultivation of those graces which do not die out in the Latin nature even in times of trouble and unrest. One good example, amongst many others, of ready response to the glad things of life so characteristic of the Latin nature was manifested by the 16th of September celebration in Piedras Negras, a little city across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass. The last celebrations are still worthy of mention because of the noticeable increase of confidence and contentment which the Mexican public displayed on that occasion, thus giving a palpable proof of its faith in the Carranza Government. Many people on the American side of the Rio Grande crossed to enjoy festivities which have always proved themselves attractive, especially at present, when conditions in Mexico are once more sufficiently normal to allow the stranger there to enjoy the picturesque sights at ease. The Piedras Negras celebrations were interesting not only in themselves, but also because they were so typical of Mexican life and a replica of similar celebrations held in many smaller cities all over Mexico that day. Very animated were the crowds that gathered to see the fiestas. The streets were thronged with pedestrians of all classes, who ranged from the well-dressed young man about town to the old-fashioned Mexican, wearing his national sombrero of enormous brim.

Stylishly dressed señoritas graced the festivities by their attractive presence and smiled sweetly at the crowds, displaying gleaming

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Love for Children

A Country Where Race Suicide is Unknown and Little Ones Are the First Consideration

SOME of the most interesting traits of the national character are either not recognized by many who have essayed to commit to print their observations regarding Mexico, and hence are entirely ignored, or else slurred over with slight attention. The lower classes are frequently stigmatized by superficial observers as ignorant, debased and degraded, with none of the qualities that their own "superior civilization" perchance possesses. For this reason there has grown up a very erroneous idea with regard to the class which forms the greater portion of the fifteen or more millions population of the Republic.

Foreigners who have resided for any length of time in the country and have studied the characteristics of the people have been struck by one feature of their life which to them seems an anomaly, although to Mexicans of every class there is nothing strange about it and it is not regarded as being worthy of remark, since it is one of the accepted features of life and is not so exceptional as to attract especial notice.

Reference is made to the rearing of children, to the great affection for them displayed by parents of all classes, to the uniform and unquestionable obedience shown to parents by their offspring, to the affection displayed between themselves, and to the lack of anything like severity of discipline which is so common among some races and which to some seems necessary in order to train children in the proper direction.

"Race suicide," which seems to have become so popular among the most highly "civilized" nations (or was popular until the present wholesale slaughter of the flower of mankind promises to reverse this custom in a manner rather contradictory of what are supposed to be the laws of morality), has never been known or even suggested in Mexico. From highest to lowest the couple without children are regarded as accursed of the higher powers. The finger of scorn is pointed in the market place to the childless wife, and happy is she who has a quiver full. The poorest families are never so poor that a new addition is not welcomed, nor a place found for other little ones who may have lost their parents and thereby become homeless. Children are regarded as a gift sent directly from the Creator, and he who interferes with their coming is held in wonder and contempt.

Obedience and good behavior towards the parents and among each other seem to a great extent rather to be inbred and a natural characteristic than the result of any especial training or discipline. The little ones as a rule are what might be called naturally good and well behaved. Not that they are not full of life and mischief and have their quarrels among themselves at school and while at play. But in their home life they quarrel rarely. Seldom have parents been seen to administer violent discipline to the recalcitrant child. Blows are infrequent—so infrequent as to excite the wonder of visitors. The amazement of the average Mexican would be aroused by seeing or hearing such method of training. He thinks nothing of its absence. There is little necessity for it.

Then, too, another characteristic of the little ones of all classes is their habitual politeness to their elders and toward strangers. This, too, seems almost innate and to a large extent not the result of training. In the cities and in the remotest places of mountain and desert the same demeanor is observed. When a stranger arrives at a hacienda or at the jacal of a peon the little ones proffer their hands and salute the arrival with the greatest courtesy and politeness. Even the children in arms scarcely able to speak extend their tiny hands in salutation toward the visitor. This politeness and courtesy persists through life and they scarcely seem to need instructions in this direction. They readily imitate the example of their elders and exhibit this trait almost from the cradle to the grave.

And while speaking of children, there is another point which provokes much criticism on the part of those who do not understand or little appreciate the situation, and that is the not infrequent spectacle of, in more or less rural communities, the little ones running around in almost complete nudity. Those to whom this sight is presented throw up their hands in horror at the supposed condition of destitution that is the cause. They do not understand that it is out of pure regard for the comfort of these little ones they are thus allowed to comport themselves. In tropical regions, where the custom prevails, even adults content themselves with as little cover as common decency will permit. To confine the little bodies of the very young would be cruel and hence they are allowed to dispense with all unnecessary clothing for climatic reasons.

The writer has lived for years in various portions of the United States, and without wishing to appear in any way censorial, he feels moved to declare as a fact that seldom has he seen such interest and affection for offspring by the father as the rule in his own country. You can expect, of course, as a matter of maternal affection, that the mother shall evince that regard to the utmost, although it must be confessed that the writer has noted with regret its apparent infrequency. But the Mexican father, peon or aristocrat, concerns himself constantly with the personal welfare of his little ones. It is interesting to watch this display. Whether at home or traveling, the little ones seem always to have the prior claim for all that makes for their welfare or happiness, even when their elders are obliged to deprive themselves thereof.

Official announcement is made that on May 1st the exchange of international postoffice money orders between Mexico and the United States will be resumed in accordance with the recently negotiated arrangement.

Chihuahua and Durango Governors Report

Misstatements Regarding Conditions in That Region Corrected

NEWS reports were recently widely published in the press of the United States to the effect that the city of Durango had been captured by Villa, who had obtained large amounts of ammunition and supplies thereby; that the Villista forces in Chihuahua outnumbered those of the Federal Government, and that Villa practically controlled the greater portion of that State.

The Governors of the two States referred to had their attention called to these reports, and the following dispatches have been received from them, completely disproving the statements quoted:

DURANGO CITY, *March* 23.

ING. YGNACIO BONILLAS,
Mexican Ambassador, Washington, D. C.:

In answer to your message dated the 20th, please make public the fact that the situation in this State is not as appears in the papers of the United States. The entire State is in a condition of peace, only roving bandits being encountered, who are constantly pursued by the forces of the Government. The sensational statements which have been spread in the United States are due to the fact that Villa made an incursion into the State but the armed forces of the Government kept in touch with him and finally surprised and defeated him at Tepehuanes, where many of the men who accompanied him were killed and the rest dispersed.

(Signed) General DOMINGO ARRIETA,
Governor of the State of Durango.

All Quiet in Chihuahua

The Acting Governor of the State of Chihuahua wired as follows:

CHIHUAHUA CITY, *March* 19.

MEXICAN NEWS BUREAU,
Washington, D. C.:

Answering telegram sent to me today regarding statements in the press (concerning Villista forces and activities), I beg to inform you that this State is in a condition of complete calmness, and that you may deny any alarming reports in this respect.

(Signed) MANUEL H. MARMOLEJO,
Acting Governor of Chihuahua.

The Legislature of Yucatan has prohibited further pugilistic or boxing exhibitions in that State, classing such displays with the forbidden bullfights, cockfights, and other forms of sport that are deemed to be demoralizing to the public.

The National Health Board is taking vigorous steps to prevent the falsification of various patent medicines that are in common use and which are deemed injurious to the public health.

A decree has been issued forbidding the exportation of aniline and coloring material from coal tar or other sources, whether natural or artificial.

Governmental Departments

How the Administration of Public Affairs Is Regulated—Cabinet Ministers and Their Duties

IN the session of Congress of December 13, 1917, the following law governing the administration of public affairs was passed: Seven executive departments of cabinet rank (secretarías) were created: Interior (Gobernación); Foreign Affairs; Finance and Public Credit; War and Marine; Agriculture and Fomento; Communications and Public Works; Industry, Commerce and Labor.

Five departments or bureaus whose chiefs have no cabinet rank (departamentos), as follows: University and Fine Arts; Public Health; General Purveyor; Manufacturing and Military Supplies; Comptroller.

The Department of the Interior has jurisdiction over the following matters: Relations with the Federal Congress and with the Supreme Court; relations between the Federal Government and the States; elections; constitutional amendments; individual guarantees; organic law, Federal codes and their publication; expropriation; amnesty; pardons, etc.; private charitable institutions; archives of the nation; official gazette.

The jurisdiction of the five departments or bureaus whose chiefs have not cabinet rank (departamentos) follows:

I. *University of Fine Arts—*

School of Higher Studies, Law School, School of Medicine, Engineering, Faculty of Chemical Studies, all teaching establishments to be created; Bureau of Fine Arts; School of Fine Arts, Music and Declamation; Museums; copyright; National libraries; School for the training of librarians and file clerks; expositions of works of art.

(It should be noted that commercial education is now placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Commerce, Industry and Labor.)

II. *Public Health—*

Food legislation; port sanitation; food inspection; drug inspection; health measures; temperance measures; sanitary congresses.

III. *General Purveyor's Office—*

Its duty is to supply, by purchase or manufacture, everything needed for the several departments and bureaus of the Federal Government, with the following limitations:

(*a*) Department of Commerce and Public Works is authorized to acquire building materials, machinery and tools needed in national public works.

(*b*) Department of Military Supplies is authorized to acquire raw materials, machinery and tools needed for their work.

IV. *Department of Military Supplies—*

All factories for manufacture of military supplies.

V. *Comptroller's Office—*

Federal accounting; public debt.

Each department is required to send its budget to the Department of Finance to be by it submitted to Congress.

The various municipalities are charged with:

I. Primary education in all grades.

II. Offices of weights and measures.

III. Jails.

The Governor of the Federal District is given authority over technical schools, "Escuela Nacional Preparatoria," National Boarding School, and Normal Schools.

The law of March 13, 1891, heretofore in force, distributed the administration of public affairs among the following executive departments. Their order determined their right of succession to the Presidency, in case of vacancy:

Foreign Affairs.
Interior (Gobernación).
Justice and Public Instruction.*
Fomento.
Communications and Public Works.
Finance and Public Credit.
War and Marine.

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*Department of Public Instruction was created as separate executive department by law of May 19, 1901.

Proof of Stable Conditions

ONE of the best proofs of the stable political condition now prevailing in the State of Vera Cruz (which is daily reported being overrun by revolutionists) is the fact that Mr. Javier Lara, known as the Spanish translator of Colonel Roosevelt's "America and the World War," was recently in Washington in an endeavor to get a special permit to ship to his brothers, Hnos. Lara & Leal, a 10-ton ice plant to be installed to replace a smaller plant which they have at present in a seaport along the Gulf of Mexico, conditions in that part of the country having improved to such an extent as to warrant the installation of a larger plant.

Messrs. Lara & Leal own the largest fishing fleet in Alvarado, Vera Cruz, one of the principal seaports in southern Mexico, and they are considered the largest shippers of refrigerated fish into the interior of Mexico. In spite of the report of unsettled conditions, they are making daily shipments and so far have carried on their business undisturbed in the same old way as during the palmy days of the Diaz and Madero administrations.

The published prices of beef in Mexico City are as follows: Of first class, 9.86 cents American gold per pound; second class, 8.51 cents; third class, 6.67 cents.

Arrangements have been made for the installation of a wireless telegraphic station at Guadalajara, with power sufficient to communicate with all portions of the Republic.

Under the direction of the Department of Fine Arts a national Pantheon for illustrious men is to be erected in the heart of the city of Mexico, which will be a decided addition to the many architectural monuments in that place.

Under the direction of the National Board of Health all the swamp lands in the State of Tamaulipas are being treated with petroleum in order to combat the various unhealthy conditions that arise therefrom when neglected.

PRESENT-DAY MEXICO

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teeth between their softly curved lips. Women of the humbler class, though often fully as pretty as their sisters belonging to higher social strata, did not as a rule conform to the dictates of fashion by wearing hats, but followed their time-honored custom of gracefully draping a shawl around head and shoulders.

Concerning the shawl, it may not be amiss to add that even the most aristocratic señoras and señoritas possess the knack of wearing it bewitchingly when occasion demands, thus proving that both higher and lower classes in Mexico, as anywhere else, have many traits in common characteristic of the nationality to which both classes belong, irrespective of other caste distinctions existing between them. These various types, the parades, both civilian and military, and the well-designed floats which passed, formed a scene replete with local color and interest, especially as the setting of quaint streets lent an additional charm to the whole picture. The streets, besides being picturesque, are clean, and that, too, forms an attraction at any time. Conspicuous were the rows of neat school children who filed past, and, led by their earnest-looking teachers, they bore evidence of the present wide-spread interest for education in Mexico. This educational movement is beginning to extend its benefits down even to the lower classes, who before the revolutionary upheavals in Mexico were considered little more than beasts of burden.

Since I have dwelt on the 16th of September celebrations as being typical of Mexican life, it would be difficult to forget the ball given at the local casino in honor of the occasion. It is a well-known fact that Mexican balls are charming affairs, and the 16th of September ball was no exception to the rule. Mexicans are experts in the art of decorating and the arrangement of social functions, and their talent was displayed to advantage at the ball. Many were the guests who danced to the music of an excellent band, and during pauses, and at refreshments afterwards, they did not fail to tell one another how pleasant it was to enjoy tranquilly a 16th of September ball at the Mexican Casino. Several other nationalities besides the Mexicans were represented at the Casino, for all had availed themselves of invitations to attend the ball. The friends of Mexico, whatever their nationality may be, sincerely hope that they will enjoy many more such pleasant festivities under the same peaceful conditions. Let us hope that the new, the reorganized Mexico may succeed in maintaining permanently the peace she justly deserves.

A movement is under way for the establishment of a church in Tampico for holding religious services in the English language. It will be more or less of an independent character instead of sectarian, and funds have been pledged sufficient to inaugurate the enterprise.

A Department of Labor has been established by the Secretary of Commerce and Labor which will include all labor matters, statistics, publications, etc. All labor questions and disputes will be taken up by this department and settled amicably wherever possible.

New Orleans Export Trade

Statistics Showing a Single Month's Shipments From That Port to Various Points in Mexico

THE Mexican Consul-General at New Orleans, Mr. R. E. Muzquiz, has compiled the following report of the exports from that point to various Mexican ports during the month of February, 1918. It is of especial interest as showing the wide range of articles of American production that are consumed in the neighboring Republic:

TO VERA CRUZ

	Pkgs.	Value
Groceries in general	2,541	$ 5,211.00
Cotton	750	134,977.00
Electrical apparatus	121	5,761.67
Hardware	2,100	22,314.06
Whole Rice	14	3,305.57
Automobiles and parts	335	5,627.00
Preserved meats	6	44.00
Drugs and medicines	485	5,252.72
Cement	16	332.50
Crackers	12	115.00
Agricultural implements	86	2,694.80
Soap	13,150	62,964.00
Milk and its products	54	1,592.00
Lubricants	250	1,376.00
Lumber	2,800	1,599.00
Lumber manufactured	1,933	5,475.85
Machinery	126	9,450.93
Whole corn	11	257.87
Miscellaneous	887	15,756.78
Furniture	82	5,441.16
Paper money	1	38,044.50
Paper and printed matter	295	5,252.26
Alimentary pastes	1,635	4,521.30
Fish in tins	197	1,300.00
Clothing (made)	14	3,164.50
Hats	12	876.00
Glassware	1,394	7,774.10
Shoes	116	17,625.45
Linen goods	47	5,325.30
Totals	29,470	$373,432.26

TO PROGRESO

	Pkgs.	Value
Groceries	1,020	$ 8,413.74
Electrical apparatus	22	721.39
Hardware	414	10,196.83
Linen	8	1,456.69
Rice in grain	3,325	23,900.00
Automobiles and accessories	43	5,769.80
Footwear	81	12,242.21
Coal	3,200	2,800.00
Drugs and medicines	106	2,689.75
Fresh fruits	2,604	10,971.00
Crackers	881	11,983.67
Agricultural implements	21	9,150.00
Soap	10,008	39,197.72
Milk and its products	420	9,061.96
Lubricants	600	3,668.50
Lumber	4,332	2,045.00
Lumber manufactured	330	380.00
Machinery	40	9,703.00
Lard	4	279.52
Miscellaneous	1,108	13,237.44
Furniture	39	1,754.27
Paper and printed matter	277	3,309.36
Alimentary pastes	1,046	4,950.21
Fish in cans	28	176.76
Petroleum and derivates	400	2,600.00
Made clothing	5	777.32
Glass and articles	33	549.40
Totals	30,305	$191,985.54

TO LAGUNA DEL CARMEN

	Pkgs.	Value
Hardware	121	$ 1,050.00
Footwear	30	4,054.55
Totals	151	$ 5,104.55

TO TAMPICO

	Pkgs.	Value
Groceries	2,541	$ 19,834.64
Electrical apparatus	12	425.69
Hardware	8,316	157,984.47
Linen	12	3,657.69
Rice in grain	900	5,400.00
Autos and accessories	5	3,044.06
Footwear	62	10,805.75
Dried and prepared meat	25	150.00
Cement	1,500	4,760.32
Drugs and medicines	92	3,175.70
Fresh fruits	1,171	3,413.00
Crackers	327	3,571.00
Flour and wheat	75	561.25
Agricultural implements	38	428.00
Soap	1,782	15,843.00
Milk and its products	1,397	9,687.00
Lubricants	850	1,877.52
Lumber	52,937	59,758.26
Lumber manufactured	10,097	8,012.91
Machinery	2,928	155,845.22
Corn in grain	550	2,120.00
Lard	174	1,693.00
Miscellaneous	5,540	34,930.14
Furniture	501	7,576.10
Paper and printed matter	1,513	11,643.32
Alimentary pastes	1,166	2,575.00
Fish in cans	166	1,458.71
Made clothing	16	4,126.64
Glass and products	71	1,087.30
Totals	94,764	$545,345.69

TO FRONTERA

	Pkgs.	Value
Groceries	460	$ 4,297.05
Electrical apparatus	1	32.00
Hardware	233	3,344.42
Footwear	142	5,639.90
Drugs and medicines	23	336.00
Fresh fruits	52	333.00
Crackers	68	1,329.00
Soap	152	3,323.00
Milk and its products	123	1,074.00
Lubricants	147	1,064.00
Lumber and manufactures	7	385.00
Machinery	12	797.00
Miscellaneous	2,772	7,072.89
Furniture	2	49.00
Alimentary pastes	155	819.00
Fish in cans	9	111.00
Made clothing	4	638.50
Glass and articles	4	17.76
Totals	4,366	$ 31,202.52

TO COATZACOALCOS

	Pkgs.	Value
Groceries	45	$ 1,253.13
Hardware	1,166	11,826.04
Coal	610	1,425.71
Footwear	35	5,686.00
Crackers	4	67.00
Flour and wheat	65	367.75
Milk and its products	3	93.00
Miscellaneous	2,772	10,258.29
Glass and articles	10	52.00
Totals	4,710	$ 31,028.63

TO MANZANILLO
Via Panama Canal

	Pkgs.	Value
Lumber	787	$ 638.92

RESUME

	Pkgs.	Value
To Vera Cruz	29,470	$373,432.26
Tampico	94,764	535,445.69
Progreso	30,305	191,985.54
Frontera	4,366	31,202.52
Coatzacoalcos	4,710	31,028.63
Laguna del Carmen	151	5,104.55
Manzanillo	787	638.92
Total	164,643	$1,168,838.11
Total for January		605,282.20

CONSUL GENERAL BRAVO

(*Concluded from page 6*)

Mexico's West Coast and our own here of Victoria and Vancouver.

"Having lived for some years in that wonderful and beautiful country, which has passed through the usual distressing stages that many another old country has in the evolution of democracy from autocracy, I have the honor of introducing to you Mexico's first Consul-General to Canada, and I should like to add, with a hope that his duties will be such as to permanently require his locating within this Pacific Province, the Western outlet for the trade of the Dominion."

Señor Bravo in reply gave an interesting resume of the present financial and commercial conditions of Mexico. He called special attention to the improved credit of the country owing to the withdrawal of previous paper issues and the ability to substitute gold and silver currency. He urged steps being taken to open up closer trade relations between Canada and Mexico. The United States has already taken considerable advantage of the improved conditions in Mexico, especially through the port of New Orleans, where now the imports of crude oil amount to 27,000,000 gallons per month, irrespective of the enormous amounts exported for the use of the British navy.

Señor Bravo is hopeful of seeing water transportation established between British Columbia ports and the West Coast of Mexico. The latter country requires coal, manufactured lumber, shoes, wool, hardware and asbestos, and gives in exchange sulphur, sugar, coffee, hides and fruits, such as bananas and oranges, which are already being sent to Eastern Canada by rail. He also alluded to the immense trade now being carried on getting sisal from Yucatan.

MEXICO'S FOREIGN TRADE

(*Concluded from page 3*)

American countries are of common stock, speaking the same or similar languages, have like customs and tastes, it seems strange enough that more direct trade relations have not been encouraged between these portions of the same hemisphere. This matter is now receiving the attention that it deserves, and it is reasonable to expect that before long the foreign trade of Mexico will be considerably extended in this direction as it is being elsewhere.

The recent organization of the National Chamber of Commerce in Mexico, and in which were included delegates from all portions of the Republic, will undoubtedly have a stimulating effect upon the extension of foreign trade in every direction. Indeed, that was one of the principal objects of its establishment, the members evincing great enthusiasm and a determination to extend the scope of Mexico's foreign trade to all portions of the world. These representatives showed by the discussions that they were very much alive to the possibilities as well as to the necessities of their country in this direction.

Girl Students in M. E. School at Pachuca, St of Hi

Foreign Missionaries in Mexico

The Consistent Friends of the People and the Country—Their Influence Always Beneficial

BY ONE OF THEM

MOST of the evangelical missions in Mexico are the work of societies located in the United States. The money expended and the efforts put forth by these societies represent a genuinely altruistic motive. These societies and their agents seek nothing from Mexico. Their one aim is the good of the Mexican people—not their "goods." By sending missionaries they mean no reflection on the people of Mexico. Missionaries are also sent to many parts of the United States.

A sort of natural result of all this is that the missionaries are always firm friends of the Mexicans. They defend them and speak up for them on all occasions. When many Americans have clamored for armed intervention, and some who had lived in Mexico—and had interests there—clamored loudest of all, the missionaries, to a man, have stood out against it. When others have discounted the people of Mexico and insisted that they are inefficient and incapable of self-government, these men, in the press and on the platform, have earnestly protested. Through all the troubles of recent years they have begged the American people and the American Government to be patient. It is not improbable that their influence had much to do with President Wilson's persistence in the much-ridiculed policy of "watchful waiting." Now the event has vindicated both him and them.

The Protestants are convinced that the Mexican Revolution has opened new opportunities for them. It has been in the direction of popular liberty, of the rights of the common man. It is for this, as they understand the matter, that the Christian religion also stands. The patriots of Mexico need not be antagonistic to that religion. Some of them have been annoyed by the mixing of church and state. They need have no fears of Protestantism in that regard. It happens that a good many of the leaders of the Constitutionalist movement are Protestants. As officials, both in the army and in the Government, they have made a good name. They are honest and they are capable.

It is often asserted that the Protestant churches are so divided that their cause is weakened. Sometimes, it must be confessed, there has been a little overlapping and perhaps friction. But these instances are less significant than other facts which should be noted. The first of these is that these divisions, this variety, are a natural result of freedom of thought. The people of Mexico, now that they are free, are falling into different groups in politics, social affairs, etc. Doubtless they will divide also in religious preferences. The differences among Protestant churches concern forms of administration, ceremonies in ritual, etc.—matters of taste, in other words. In all affairs of principle—and this is the second fact to be noted—they are one. Once every year the officers of all the boards of missions in the United States and Canada meet in a conference. They plan to work together. In furtherance of that, they have organized a special Committee on Co-operation in Latin America. Its officers have charge of joint literary work, union educational efforts, Sunday school co-operation, distribution of fields, etc., for all the churches that have missions in Latin America.

So sure are the evangelical churches that the present situation in Mexico offers them a new opportunity that they have laid down a new program. In March of 1917 there met in Mexico City about a hundred representatives of these various churches. This convention was a symbol of unity and an agency in preparing for the work of the future. The following paragraphs quoted from an official report of it will give some conception of its scope and meaning:

"Among the twenty-one recommendations made by the convention in favor of an aggressive co-operative program to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities now presented to the church are the following:

"1. The formation of a Committee of Co-operation, composed of one national worker and one missionary from each society or communion working in Mexico. The provisional Committee named by the convention met the last day, named its officers and committees and began work.

"2. That the National Conventions be held under the auspices of this Committee.

"3. That an interdenominational Council of Education be formed; that a movement be started toward a Mexican evangelical university; that all normal schools in Mexico be

Boy Students in M. E. School at

te of Hidalgo, Mexico—A Leading Mining Camp

merged into four; two for young women and two for young men.

"4. That there be formed a united publishing house for all the churches which shall publish the organ of the Mexican Evangelical Church and a young people's paper something like the Youth's Companion; and that philosophical works, treatises on Protestantism and its practical results, and literature that aids young people in solving their problems be brought out as rapidly as possible.

"5. That plans for the establishment of interdenominational hospitals and dispensaries be studied.

"6. That institutional churches, settlement work and people's institutes like the one in Piedras Negras, be established.

"These findings are truly representative of the best leadership of the Mexican Evangelical Church. Foreigners composed much less than half of the membership of the convention. The discussions and conclusions were almost exclusively those of the Mexican leaders."

The difficulties of travel and residence in Mexico by foreigners the last few years have thrown much added responsibility on the Mexican leaders of the Protestant congregations. They have faced these responsibilities in an admirable spirit and look forward to a day when the churches in Mexico shall be wholly self-sustaining.

The Protestant churches have always insisted on education. They have conducted many schools in Mexico. It has been their pleasure to co-operate with the governments of the several States in this important work. They adopt the official programs and the graduates of their normal schools make acceptable teachers in the public schools. President Carranza, when Governor of the State of Coahuila, was a warm friend of the girls' normal schools at Saltillo, the People's Institute at Piedras Negras, and other educational enterprises. The provision of the new Constitution that churches are not to carry on primary school work may interfere in some measure with the program of the missions. We should have preferred a requirement merely that the schools adopt the official schedule of studies and submit to government inspection. That, as we see it, would have served every purpose. But we cheerfully accept any restrictions that the Government considers necessary. There is nothing in the way of high schools, normal schools, seminaries and even colleges being carried on by the missions and their representatives.

The Committee on Co-operation, mentioned above, with headquarters at New York, has one secretary who gives his entire time to promoting Christian literature in Spanish and Portuguese. The people of Mexico are reading more today than ever before. Their minds have been stirred by the awakening experiences of the last seven years. They welcome good books and papers.

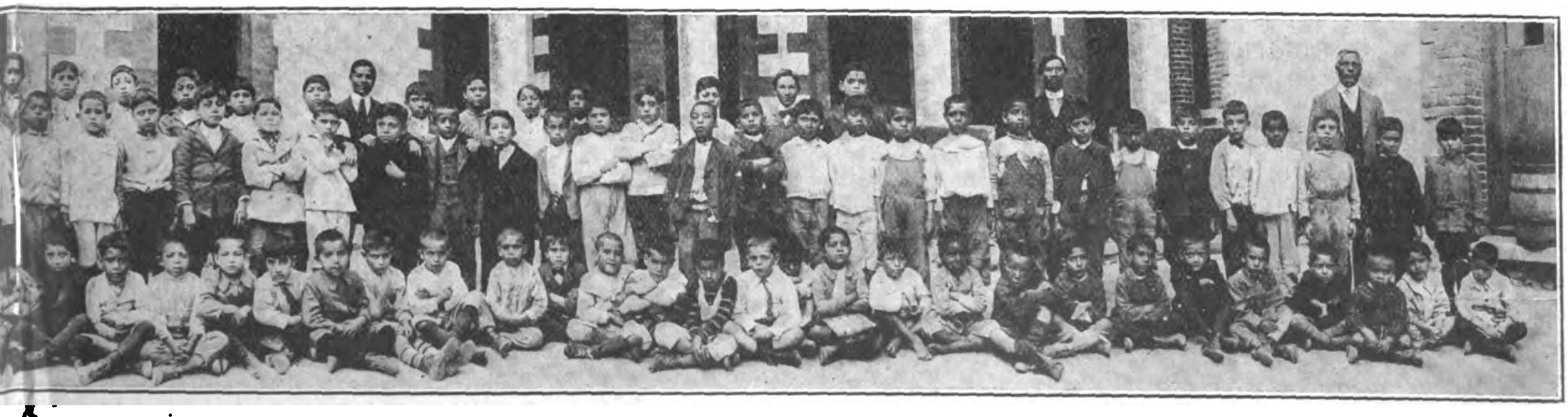
They are interested also in hearing the preachers who are sent out. Most of these are themselves Mexicans. They have a message for their countrymen. They believe that religion is a matter of life and conduct, not merely of forms and beliefs. They also believe that Christianity has no quarrel with science. Many of the intellectual leaders of Latin America, of Mexico as well as of other countries, have been taught that it has, that the two cannot be reconciled. This, we hold, is clearly wrong. Here is an issue that needs to be ventilated. We invite Mexico to give it attention.

Protestant churches ask only religious liberty. This they now find in Mexico. They seek no special priviliges, no subsidies, no official support. They believe that church and state should be kept separate. With malice toward none and with charity for all, they face the future. They rejoice in Mexico's new liberty and will rejoice equally in her new prosperity, which they expect now to follow. They wish to do all that may be possible to help emancipate her citizens who may yet be under the domination of ignorance, and to train them for their responsibilities as sovereign electors. As for the missionaries, we are in Mexico as Mexico's friends, to help, not to hurt, to build up, not to tear down. We believe in the Mexicans and in their future.

The Government of the State of Sinaloa has been authorized to organize a force of not to exceed 1500 rurales, or mounted police, whose duty it shall be to preserve order in the remote portions of that region. Similar organizations are under way in other States which have extensive mountain regions.

Several new custom houses and ports of entry have been established along the northern border of the Republic for the purpose of exercising greater vigilance over trade between the two countries. The existing ones are so widely separated that much contraband traffic is carried on without fear of interference.

A contract between the Government and the Mexican Industrial Company of San Diego, California, under which the latter were granted certain fishing rights off the coast of Lower California, has been nullified because the concessionaires engaged in the business of carrying guano away from some islands belonging to Mexico.



t Pachuca, State of Hidalgo, Mexico

Mexican Byways and Highways

Scenes and Experiences Away From the Usual Paths of Travelers and Writers

BY GEO. F. WEEKS

I

DEDICATION

To my many Mexican friends—Peones, hacendados, professional men, merchants, civil and military officials and others—whose unfailing kindness and helpfulness smoothed many a rugged road and caused many a weary hour to pass in comfort, this work is dedicated, in the hope that it may remove some of the erroneous impressions that are so widely held to their unmerited discredit.

G. F. W.

Preface

THERE has been a surfeit of books and magazine articles dealing with the better known portions of Mexico. It is some twelve years since the writer first went to that country. A portion of that time was passed in certain of the larger centers, but the greater part was spent in small places, villages, rural sections, the mountains, the desert, the byways as well as the highways, in the Revolution, etc. In this manner he gained the impressions and information which he has committed to these pages, endeavoring to picture the *real* Mexico and the *real* people of that country as he has seen them.

If he shall have succeeded in this task, even to a small degree, he will feel amply rewarded, all the more as in doing so he will have dispelled to some extent, it is to be hoped, the popular illusions regarding our next-door neighbor to the south, while at the same time paying a debt of gratitude to a country and a people which have given him some of his pleasantest experiences, some of his most enjoyable friends, as well as the restoration of shattered health and a renewed interest and zest in life.

Another author has appropriated the title "The Man Who Likes Mexico," but it applies equally as well to the writer.

G. F. W.

A Mexican Winter

It is winter in Mexico.

It is winter in Cuatro Cienegas.

It is winter on the desert and winter in the valleys.

It is winter on the mountain tops. The lofty summit of gray old Ante-Ojo, five thousand feet in the azure—and such azure!—is white with snow, as are also the crests of the rugged San Marcos mountains in the dim distance, with lovely Santa Tecla and Santa Elena at their feet. It is true, this is only upon rare occasions, but it is all the more attractive from its rarity, and though the sun shines brightly and with considerable warmth in the valley, the presence of the snow, even so far above the town, makes one shiver involuntarily and wrap his coat or blanket more closely about his body.

The cold wind sweeps from the desert, gathering strength, frigidity and dust in its twice a hundred miles of journeying from the "river" to the north, howls through the gorge at the mouth of which nestles the little town, and, throttled down by the narrow, precipitous walls of the canyon to an unbelievable force, hurls itself upon the place with a vim and a fury and a blinding violence that drives every one indoors—not to sit by the warm, cozy fire, as one might suppose—for they do not indulge in such "unhealthful" luxuries, in this part of the country at all events—but to sit, blanket-wrapped and shivering, with solid wooden doors and windows tightly closed, and wait with an equanimity born of centuries of similar experiences and similar customs until the storm of dust and gravel shall have spent itself and one may venture upon the streets again with some degree of comfort.

And as to how long one must wait, there is no assurance. Sometimes the gale blows itself out over night. But this is rare. Sometimes it lasts one day, two days, and on occasion three days. What this means no one who has not undergone the experience can appreciate. And what it means when at last the storm has exhausted itself and one can join the blanket-wrapped group of leading citizens on the sunny side of a white-washed wall, to thaw one's self out and set the blood to circulating again in the genial, life-giving and restoring warmth of *"la estufa de los pobres"* —the stove of the poor people, as the sun is called—can also only be appreciated by one who has undergone the experience—an experience not at all likely to be forgotten, even though years may elapse before one seeks to commit his impressions to other paper than his note-book, as in the present instance. But it is an experience well worth having, merely to enjoy the sensation of its ending! Small wonder, by the way, that the prehistoric peoples of this country were sun-worshippers! Who would not be, under like conditions?

The Road to the Desert, Cuatro Cienegas

And while it is winter in Mexico, it is also winter in the North. Only, it is a different sort of winter. This is no such winter as the people of the "temperate zone" are accustomed to, with frost, and ice and snow, and zero weather. Indeed, on first experiencing a winter season in Mexico, one is apt to view with scorn those who talk of "winter weather" without those idiosyncrasies. But in a year or two he will feel differently about it, and will agree with his fellow sojourning compatriots that the term is not misapplied.

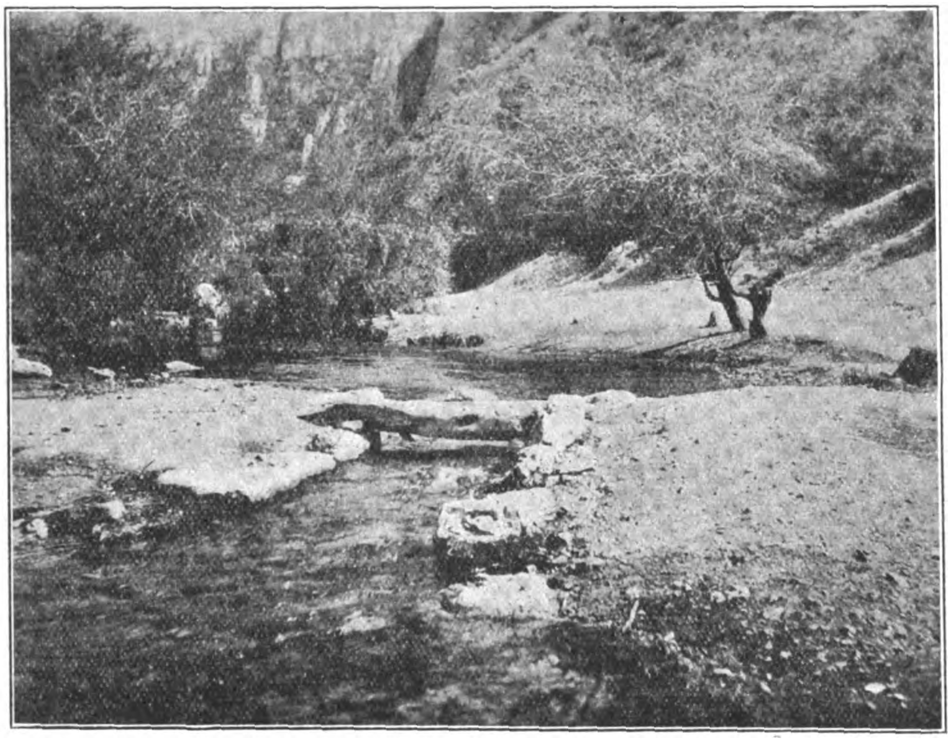
For, while, as in Cuatro Cienegas, one may see orange trees fruit-laden just over the garden wall, may see flowers of a sort in bloom in the open air, may see farmers at work in the fields, may even see kidlets with a single garment, or perchance no garment at all, rolling and tumbling in some sheltered spot where the sun pours its rays, he will be willing to concede that for all practical purposes, and so far as its unpleasant effects upon his own system are concerned, it is "sure enough" winter.

He will be full willing to concede that winter weather in Cuatro Cienegas is quite as productive of bodily discomfort as the same sort of weather in the North, even though there be no frost, no snow save on the distant mountain-tops, and no ice except in the refrigerator or in the factory devoted to its manufacture, since Nature declines to commit herself so far, or to stultify herself, by mixing snow and oranges—though she does this queer stunt occasionally—this in a whisper—even in California!

Explain it how you will—the favorite explanation being that long residence in a semitropic region thins one's blood and makes him more susceptible to the slightest touch of frost—the fact remains that even with oranges growing close by, even with flowers in plain sight, even without frost or ice or snow, I have suffered fully as much from cold in Cuatro Cienegas and in other portions of the country as I did in my old New Jersey or New York home.

It was fall when I first arrived in this most charming little town, and the weather was all that fall weather could be to make it enjoyable. The heat of the summer was past and gone. Rain had not yet fallen—indeed, there had been none for a year and a half, and none fell for several months after my advent. Dust lay thick and heavy everywhere—how thick and how heavy none can imagine unless he has experienced a two years' drought. The roads were beds of soft, impalpable, flour-like pulverization, many inches deep, which enveloped one as with a thick, suffocating, choking mantle at every step of man or beast, at every turn of the wheel. It is not without good reason that the native, when driving or riding over these roads, wears a handkerchief fixed tightly over the face just below the eyes, covering nose and mouth, and breathes through the meshes of the fabric—a very good example, by the way, for others besides the natives. Indeed, there are many "customs of the country," odd perhaps when first seen, that the stranger would do well to follow, for they will all be found to have some good and reasonable basis, strange though they may seem.

There were two long months of genuine Indian summer weather—hazy, dreamy weather; warm, but not too much so, during the daytime; and cool, but not too cool, at night. It was a pleasure just to live, just to be alive. The valley is circled about by mountains, sawtooth outlined, silvery gray in the light of the sun of morning and evening, for the most part devoid of vegetation, at least to all appearance, yet affording such variety and such wonder of light and shade that one never wearies of studying them. At sunset the gray changes slowly to pink, then to crimson, and then to purple—a deep royal purple, of which I had read but never believed possible until now, when I saw it for myself. Even the most prosaic of my sometime companions, men so absorbed in the game of money-making that no one would suspect them of even the faintest touch of sentimentality, were wont to climb the high embankment of the great reservoir, or *"tan-que"* (two syllables), as it is called in the vernacular, just to watch the sunset and admire the constantly shifting panorama of colors. No painter would dare picture it, even though he had the rare skill to catch the evanescent and quickly changing hues, for no one would believe that even his most accurate delineation, his most painstaking mixture and application of colors, were true to nature or anything but the expression of his imagination.



Cuatro Cienegas, Water Supply—a Mountain Torrent

And of transformation scenes—one has no idea of the meaning of the expression until he has seen the wonderful transformation, almost over night, produced in the desert when there has been that rare event, a drenching rain, and that remarkable product of nature, the "resurrection plant," is brought anew to life almost as by magic.

In those sections where this wonder of the vegetable world is to be found in more or less profusion, only some scattering localities being thus favored, one sees today nothing but a brown, barren confusion of rocks and sand and gravel, with a few scattered clusters of hardy shrubs, cactus and stunted palmas. If he examines the surface of the ground closely enough, he will perhaps note a quantity of what he will be pardoned for believing are dead plants, so devoid of color or moisture, so brittle in texture, so absolutely and thoroughly *dead,* beyond any peradventure of a doubt, beyond any possibility of resuscitation, even if it were suggested, that such suggestion would be received with ridicule—did not one know better. Led by curiosity about the queer ball-like cluster of dead brown leaves that had once manifestly been a plant, one picks up a specimen, turns it over and over, examines it closely, crushes it to powder with little or no effort, and throws it away. It has no interest to him. Only another worthless and uninteresting desert growth! Of all the works of nature seen on the desert, this one seems to have less cause for existence than any.

That night perhaps it rains. Not only rains, but pours. Not only pours, but comes down in solid masses. All night long the windows of the heavens open and the floods descend and beat—not upon any house, for of houses there are none—but upon the luckless traveler scantily sheltered beneath wagon cover or tent, what time he shivers over a smoking pile of guayule or greasewood or sagebrush in the vain attempt to secure a little warmth and a little dryness. Incidentally, too, the floods descend upon the dried-up, worthless, uninteresting, dead vegetation that had attracted a moment's idle curiosity the day before.

Morning dawns, perhaps bright and clear. The sun rises, and after a while one desists from the pursuit of personal comfort at the camp fire through the medium of coffee pot and frying pan, and with dried clothes, a full stomach, a lighted cigarette and a feeling of joy over the passing of a nightmare-like experience, takes time to glance around. And as he glances his eyes open wider and wider until open to their fullest extent. What is this that he sees? What fairy wand has been waved over the desert? Has some magic carpet transported him far from the scene of the previous day? What has happened? What yesterday was a dreary, brown, barren wilderness, offering little to interest the eye, is today a garden. It is spread with a soft, feathery carpet of pale green. The sand, the earth, the very rocks themselves are draped with this wonderful covering. What does it mean?

When his first amazement is over, he investigates the phenomenon. He finds that the despised, dead, desiccated vegetation of twenty-four hours before has become revivified, enlivened, and, under the stimulus of the downpour, has taken on new life, has opened its heart, has spread out its tendrils and fronds, delicate, feathery, lace-like, of an indescribable beauty, and has covered the desert with a green mantle. It has demonstrated its indubitable right to the possession of its common appellation—the resurrection plant!

Take one of them home with you. Lay it away in closet or drawer. Pay no attention to it. Let weeks, months, elapse. Then some night put it in a bowl of water—and in the morning see the miracle that Nature has wrought, note the wonderful transformation from death to life.

No length of time can prevent its resurrection under one simple condition—ample moisture. A constant repetition of the miracle can be obtained from the same plant. It may be dried and enlivened, dried and brought back to life, over and over again without limit, and its wonderful vitality will assert itself for an apparently indefinite period. It is one of the many miracles of the desert.

But to return to our leading topic. We started to talk about winter, and have wandered far afield into the desert. But this wandering was unavoidable and will be understood by every desert lover. The "spell of the desert" never loses its hold upon one who has once felt it. And it is a mysterious spell—indescribable, fascinating, potent, without reason, as those think who have never come under its influence. No man can resist it. Once inoculated with that spell, the call of the desert can always be heard, always exercises its irresistible fascination, and as in this instance, one unconsciously responds to it and without previous intent or design finds himself wandering with either mind or body, or both, among the scenes that had charmed him perhaps two score years in the past—as with the writer.

It requires a mental wrench to return to the haunts of man once more. But the effort will be made, though the reader need not be surprised to find the lure of the desert projecting itself at almost any point in these recollections and experiences.

To resume: It is still winter in Cuatro Cienegas, just as it was before we took our little excursion into the desert.

The winds blow colder and colder. The stranger gets colder and colder. The "stove of the poor people" exerts less and less power upon him and gives him less and less comfort. His earthen-floored rooms become more and more uncomfortable, and he seeks some means for warming them. Investigation discloses no chimney, no fireplace, no opening even for a stove pipe. And further investigation discloses the still further interesting fact that it is the general and firm belief on the part of the people of all classes that to warm one's house or rooms is an almost certain challenge to pneumonia! When I began to canvass the town for some possible method of heating my chilly quarters, I was met with this deterrent. Great surprise was expressed that I should even consider such a thing. It was not the custom of the country!

No one ventured even to suggest that I repeat an experience in a remote little Indian village on the summit of the Sierra Madre. Arriving there about dark one evening with my guide and pack-mule outfit, I found accommodations of a sort in a *"meson"*—the name bestowed upon establishments where provision is made for the crude accommodation of man and beast in the absence of hotels, which are unknown in such localities. It was midwinter, the altitude of the little village—Otaez was its name—was upward of 8000 or 9000 feet, and it was cold—bitter cold! There was ice in spots where the sun had not reached throughout the day, and with the passing of that orb came a piercing wind from the mountains that sought out every nook and cranny, even though I was clothed in double underwear, wore a blanket-lined jacket and an overcoat, and on occasion wrapped a heavy Durango blanket over it all. Seeing no provision for heating the great room which was assigned to me, I finally ventured to suggest to the landlady who conducted the *meson* that I was very cold and would like a little fire. "Very well," she replied. "There is plenty of wood," pointing to great stacks of fuel in the portal. "Yes, señora," I replied, "I see the wood; but where can I have the fire? There is no stove and no fireplace or chimney."

"Oh, señor, you may make the fire wherever you want it, on the floor in any part of the room!"

And as the floor was of tile, while the room had no ceiling, the log rafters and shingles being open overhead, and the place of contact between the roof and the solid stone walls afforded spacious interstices for the exit of the smoke as well as the entry of the cold mountain winds, a fire was built on the floor, supper was cooked thereat, and with frequent additions of fuel throughout the night—made by me, not by the guide—a very comfortable rest was enjoyed.

The Plaza at Cuatro Cienegas

But the Cuatro Cienegas houses are not built that way. They are closely ceiled, tight as a drum, and there is no opportunity for the escape of the smoke, should one elect to build a fire on the floor of the middle of his bed or office room, the character of the floor itself, however, presenting no obstacle, any more than the naked earth does anywhere, indoors or out! So search for a stove was commenced. It was fruitless for a long time, but finally, after visiting many establishments, one accommodating merchant, after cogitating deeply a while, told me that he believed in a warehouse in the rear of his store, given over to an accumulation of odds and ends, was an old stove, or the principal part of one. Hastening thither, after much search the rusty cast-iron box of an old-fashioned heating stove was found. To be sure, it had no legs, it had no door, and there was no pipe to be found anywhere. But with this foundation upon which to work, a heating appliance of a kind was finally arranged. With some old boards I knocked together an open box and filled it with sand, so as to elevate the stove above the ground to a proper distance. Some bricks made just as good legs as the original Albany manufacturer could have devised, while a piece of sheet iron was cut and bent into shape and put into service as a door. It was necessary to send several hundred miles to the nearest large city for some pipe, but when this arrived the question of an outlet became a serious one. The stone walls were altogether too thick and solid to permit of one being cut through. The only opening to the exterior was the door, and over this was a narrow transom closely guarded with iron bars set perpendicularly in the heavy frame. Two of these were forced apart with a crowbar, while the pipe was bent and compressed so as to pass through the opening thus made, and an outlet for the smoke was thus provided. Soon "El Gringo" had a warm fire roaring in the patched-up contrivance and a volume of smoke and sparks was being discharged into the street, to the amazement and wonder of the populace.

Many of my friends, with sorrow and apprehension depicted upon their countenances, were

(*Concluded on page 18*)

Seen in a Mexican Plaza

A Summer's Idyll of an Idle Summer

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

X

Tragic Ending of the Idyll

And then suddenly, unexpectedly, with no premonition, no warning, like the shock of an earthquake, came the tragic ending of these peaceful, restful months. One whose life has flowed on evenly, steadily, with none but the usual incidents of birth, existence and death in regular and natural order, can have no idea of what it means to be shocked by the sudden and unheralded announcement of the violent death of one's closest associate, who but a few short days previously had been in the best of health; had bidden his companion a hearty good-bye; who had a family whom he loved and by whom he was in turn adored; who was comparatively young and who had from every outward indication a long life of business success and happiness before him. And when the truth about that death is a mystery and must always remain so, despite close and careful investigation, the shock is all the greater and its effects all the more lasting. They never pass away, but ever remain as a dark cloud in the memory.

It was on a lovely, peaceful, quiet Sunday afternoon. The plaza was thronged, as the band was about to begin its regular musical program under the direction, by the way, of an expert musician whose name is attached to some of the most popular airs in Mexico, but whose unfortunate failings—the failings of a genius—had doomed him to an obscure existence in this out-of-the-way place.

I had been sitting ever since the close of the siesta hour on my favorite settee, idly watching the passing throng, receiving and exchanging salutations, and never dreaming that my summer's idyll was close to an abrupt end. Some sudden impulse prompted me to cross the street and pay a call upon Don Martin at his residence—something I had never before done on a Sunday in all the time I had resided here.

I had not been in the patio five minutes before the telephone bell in the entrance to the house rang, and my host answered it. I heard an exclamation of surprise, then a hurried conversation in agitated tones, and then Don Martin came back to where I was sitting and stood speechless for a moment or two. Glancing at his face, I saw a look of consternation upon it and noted that he was greatly disturbed for some reason. He hesitated a few moments and then said:

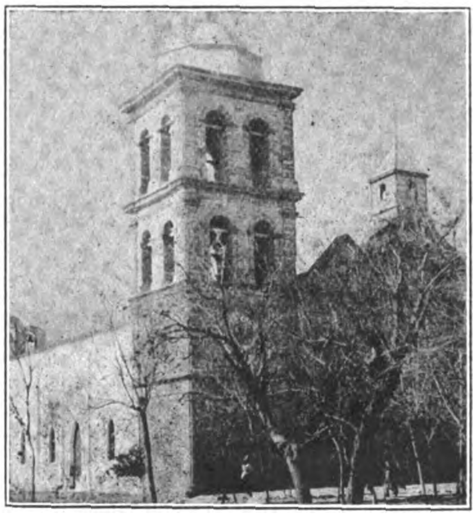
"Oh, Señor Semanas, I have some very bad news for you! I do not know how to tell it. It is shocking."

"Tell me quickly," I replied. "Bad news is best told at once. I am used to it." As indeed I was, and was to become even more inured in the coming years.

"Your partner out on the desert is dead—shot! He killed himself or was killed early this morning at his camp on the Fortuna hacienda, a hundred miles out. The Judge at Ocampo has just received the news and asked me to tell you."

Further conversation over the telephone with the official in the town named, over forty miles distant, disclosed the fact that the Chinese cook, who was the only person with the dead man at the time, was under arrest, while stoutly maintaining his innocence of crime and declaring that it was a case of suicide, though he acknowledged he heard but did not see the fatal shot fired. But there was no reason why he should have wished to end his life. Indeed, the reasons were all of an opposite character, and he had every inducement to cling closely to life.

No amount of investigation, however, disclosed anything to contradict the story of the Chinaman, and as there were no other witnesses, he was finally discharged from custody at my request, though I was required to give a bond to produce him at any time if further investigation should be deemed desirable. Nothing, however, was ever done in the matter, and the case went into the same category with the many other mysteries of the desert wherever there is a desert, in the United States as well as elsewhere. No region is so prolific of unsolved mysteries of human life and death as the desert.



Church at Cuatro Cienegas

But the tragedy necessitated changes which soon put an end to my stay in Cuatro Cienegas, and it was with genuine regret that I paid farewell visits to my many friends, and finally left the place which had so endeared itself to me, and undertook a long and arduous journey via muleback among the fastnesses of the Sierra Madre and the jungles of the West Coast—little-known regions—and which will be dealt with at length in future numbers.

A Peon Woman's Philosophy and Ideas of Wealth

In connection with the tragic end of my sojourn in Cuatro Cienegas, an interesting incident illustrating the character of the despised peon (only despised by those who do not know them) occurred.

During all my stay in the town my laundry work had been performed by a poor woman of the peon class—the last person to whom any one would credit the possession of any depth of feeling. To her, when turning over at her request the blood-stained effects of the dead man, and which she eagerly welcomed, I casually remarked, in discussing the details of the tragedy, that a sum of money in which I was equal owner had disappeared at the death of my associate. I had no intention whatever of complaining or bemoaning the loss, but merely mentioned it as an interesting and perhaps suspicious circumstance in connection with the mystery. But she evidently thought I was lamenting my monetary misfortune, for she looked at me a moment in silence and apparent surprise, not unmixed with reproach. Then she said:

"Why, Señor, *you* ought not to complain because you have lost some money, no matter how much! Your companion lost *all he had*—his life!"

Could any one equal that for sympathy or philosophy? I hastened to disabuse her mind of the idea that I had any thought of complaining, for even though she was but a peon, I assuredly wished to justify myself in her eyes and not leave her with a wrong impression as to my feelings regarding the death of my associate.

This same laundress, Maria was her name, had taken advantage of the fact that she had a "regular" patron who always paid "C. O. D." for her services, and essayed to purchase a sewing machine, that ultima thule of the average Mexican housewife's ambition, obtaining it upon the "installment" plan. This is a serious task for a peon, since the unconscionable price of $140 was demanded therefor by the agent of the only company of the kind that has obtained much of a foothold in that country. And when it is remembered that at the time of which I write a dollar a day was considered good wages for an able bodied man, while the average in the Cuatro Cienegas section was not fifty cents a day, one can see what a burden was assumed when an agreement was made to buy a sewing machine on monthly payments of even five dollars.

It was Maria's custom to come to me the first of each month when the installment fell due and ask for an advance of the five dollars necessary to discharge her liability, the amount so advanced to be deducted from that subsequently earned over, not the wash *board,* but the wash *stone.* This went on satisfactorily until she had made a very material reduction in her indebtedness.

But when the time came that I was to leave she was sorely puzzled. It chanced to be just as an installment was due, and Maria came to me about it. I told her that I could not advance the money, as I was only to be in town a week longer and she would not have sufficient opportunity to earn the amount, while I could not afford to lose it.

"Oh, but that makes no difference to *you*, Señor. You are very rich and I am very poor, and you can afford to lose so small an amount as five dollars."

"Why, Maria," I replied, "I am not rich. I am poorer than you think. I have very little."

"Oh, no, Señor," she replied. "I *know* you are very rich!"

"Now, Maria, that is not so. You are very much mistaken. But how rich do you think I am? How much do you think I gain in a month?"

She gave me a long look of appraisal, studied me from head to foot, hesitated for a moment, evidently concluded to venture the maximum, and then said:

"Very well, Señor. I think you must have as much as a hundred pesos a month!" (The equivalent of fifty dollars in American currency!)

This was manifestly the uttermost limit of her idea as to what constituted great wealth. And no wonder. For in this town the average public employee or store worker considered himself fortunate indeed if he received from $40 to $50 per month, and the common peon did not average 50 cents a day the year round—worth half that in gold!

Maria got her five dollars!

* * * * *

And so passed the summer's idyll of an idle summer.

And before I left, my friend Don Martin was kind enough to say to me: "Señor Semanas, I wish to tell you something. Every one of my fellow-countrymen for a hundred miles around Cuatro Cienegas knows you, and they all call you 'El Gringo.' They do not do this to show disrespect, but because you are the only stranger in the place, and your name is difficult for them to pronounce. So they content themselves by calling you as I have said. But every one in all this region likes you and is your friend, because you have treated them as if they were men."

Incidentally, I may add that this is all *any* Mexican asks!

(THE END)

Abundance of Food Now Being Received

ANNOUNCEMENT is made in the Mexico City press that food is now being purchased in the United States and shipments are being made to points where needed. In one week 120 carloads of corn crossed the border.

From the State of Sinaloa over one hundred and fifty thousand sacks of corn have been shipped to other portions of the Republic and much more is available. In addition that State is supplying sugar, garbanzas and tomatoes in extensive amounts.

The municipal authorities of Zacatecas have secured supplies of corn and other food which they are selling for much less than the rates demanded by dealers. The consular representatives of the allied powers in the city of Monterrey have taken steps to secure a large amount of corn from the United States which they will sell to the needy at cost—about 2 1-3 cents per pound.

Preparations are being made in every portion of the Republic to put the largest possible area into cultivation, unutilized lands everywhere being allotted to those desiring to produce grain and other crops, while seed, machinery, etc., are supplied by the authorities.

A large shipment of sugar from Cuba was recently received in Vera Cruz and was shipped to the interior. Two hundred freight cars have been supplied to the lines reaching the Isthmus of Tehuantepec for use in transporting corn, sugar, beans and other food articles from Guatemala and other Central American countries to Mexico. They will also be used for carrying coffee and tobacco for export to Europe.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS

A project has been approved for the establishment of a preparatory school exclusively for women in the city of Queretaro, where training will be given in all lines of education.

A very comprehensive curriculum has been arranged for the students at the National Preparatory School. It covers five years of study among the various branches of education along modern lines.

The Governor of the State of Guanajuato has approved a plan for the establishment of various agricultural schools in that State, and preparations are being made for immediately carrying out the enterprise.

It is proposed to establish an agricultural school at Zapopan, in the State of Jalisco, for the benefit of youth who are unable on account of the distance to attend the establishment of the same kind at Guadalajara.

At a meeting of the Council of Technical Education held recently in Mexico City, it was decided that the preparatory school for women should be supplied with all the elements for female education in various lines.

A special commissioner has been dispatched to visit the leading agricultural schools and experimental stations in the United States for the purpose of studying the methods employed and introducing into Mexico those that are adapted to that country.

A teachers' congress was recently held in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez, capital of the State of Chiapas, which was largely attended and during which many questions of importance were discussed and decided and the extension and improvement of the educational system greatly promoted.

It is proposed to establish a number of ethnographical schools in various portions of the State of Mexico, for the purpose of instructing and training members of the Indian tribes who are still numerous in that region. Technical schools are also to be established for the benefit of the common people.

The National Congress appropriated fifty thousand dollars for the establishment of a modern agricultural school at Monclova, in the State of Coahuila, and the Secretary of the Department of Fomento has dispatched a special commission to that locality to select a suitable site and inaugurate the enterprise.

It is proposed to establish an Academy of Music and Art in the State of Jalisco for the encouragement of study and progress in that direction. The painters, sculptors, musicians and other artists of that region, which has produced some of the best in the Republic, are enthusiastically supporting the movement.

The Department of Applied Botany has undertaken a careful study of the various poisonous plants of the country, with a view to determine their therapeutic value, as also their beneficial use in the extirpation of insect pests of various kinds. There are many such growths in various portions of the country.

A movement is under way for the reopening of the national nautical school at the port of Mazatlan, on the Pacific coast. It is said to be greatly needed there in order to afford instruction to those who wish to engage in seafaring, and because of the new law requiring all employees of local navigation lines to be Mexican citizens.

Upon the occasion of the installation of the new City Council of Puebla, a parade of over ten thousand school children took place and was reviewed by the officials. The official school inspector delivered an address calling the attention of the board to the educational work that had been so greatly advanced under the new régime.

A special commission has been appointed by the President of the Republic to make a careful study of the best manner in which to encourage manufacturing enterprises in order to produce many articles which are now imported and which in many cases are made from raw material produced in Mexico and exported therefrom. Changes in the tariff law will be suggested for this purpose.

The National Government has recently purchased additional lands at the ruins of San Juan Teotihuacan for the purpose of carrying out systematic archaeological researches among the buried cities of that locality. It is also proposed to explore the interior of the famous Pyramid of the Sun, which gives every indication of containing remains of the prehistoric peoples who built that wonderful monument.

The Director General of the Postoffice Department states that for the last two months of the year just closed the receipts of that branch of the Government were three million pesos more than the expenses. When he first took charge of the department, during the Revolution, there was a deficit, but this has been overcome and the present encouraging condition been brought about.

On the 8th of February Governor Joaquin Mucel, of the State of Campeche, by virtue of authority conferred upon him by the State Congress, forbade the sale of all alcohol and its derivatives and gave dealers in alcoholic beverages twenty days in which to make the necessary dispositions of their stocks. Only light wines and beer of low alcoholic strength are allowed to be sold in the State under severe penalty.

Official notice has been published that the State of Coahuila is in complete calm and normal conditions exist in every locality. This is the third largest State in the Republic.

MEXICAN BYWAYS AND HIGHWAYS

(Concluded from page 16)

wont to call and caution me gravely and seriously upon the risk I was running. "You will surely be attacked with pneumonia," was the warning repeated over and over again. "It is most dangerous to live in a warm room and then go out into the cold air. Your lungs will certainly be affected if you do that."

But the winter passed all too slowly, and their predictions were never verified. In bitter cold weather I noticed that some of those who had warned me most strenuously were not at all averse to lingering by my fireside, and then venturing out and taking the risk of what they had warned me against.

LATE NEWS NOTES

During the first ten days of the month of March the custom house at Vera Cruz turned into the National Treasury over $200,000 in Mexican gold.

The Gulf Navigation Company, operating a line of steamers on the Pacific Coast, has recently acquired three additional vessels and will increase its service between San Francisco and all ports as far south as Manzanillo.

A decree is being formulated permitting the importation of all machinery for industrial and agricultural purposes free of duty, in order to stimulate the development of the resources of the country and especially to encourage manufacturing.

The mining and smelter men of the State of Nuevo Leon are taking steps to establish a National Mining Chamber, with headquarters in Monterrey, for the purpose of promoting the development of those industries throughout the Republic.

Special agents have been appointed to visit various portions of the Republic and secure accurate statistics regarding the many industries, including the number of workmen, their wages, their condition and treatment, and all details bearing upon this feature.

It is officially announced that mining is being prosecuted with great activity in all portions of the Territory of Lower California and that it has been found necessary to establish four new mining agencies to accommodate the increasing business in that section.

General Dieguez has authorized the organization of two rural corps of eight hundred men each for the purpose of policing the mountain regions of Jalisco and other localities wherever bandits may be found. Similar action has been taken in other States.

Under instructions from the President, the Department of Industry and Commerce is having a complete directory prepared of the industries and commerce of the Republic, which will be ready for publication in a short time and will be of inestimable value.

The Federal Government has purchased from its former owners an extensive tract of land in the State of Guanajuato which will be allotted in small subdivisions to poor persons desiring to cultivate the same. The land is of high quality and very productive.

A comprehensive plan for the utilization of the waters in the State of Jalisco for irrigation is under discussion in the State Congress and will be put into operation as soon as possible. Large areas of hitherto unproductive land will thus be brought under cultivation.

Much interest has been aroused on the shores of Lake Chapala by the recent spontaneous breaking forth of a hot-water geyser which ejects a stream of water to a height of over thirty feet and appears to be increasing in volume. It is supposed to be of volcanic origin.

Excelsior, one of the leading newspapers of Mexico City, announces the receipt of information that thousands of Mexicans have joined the forces of the Allies in Europe. Large numbers are enrolled in the Foreign Legion and there is a constant stream of additions thereto.

A Mexican mechanic employed in the national arsenal has perfected a rifle which has proved to be superior to the Mauser in many respects. It is capable of being discharged sixty times per minute, and is as easily carried as the ordinary weapon. It has been named the "Mexico."

The corn purchased by the Government in the United States continues to arrive in large quantities and is sold at cost to consumers. It is sent to all portions of the Republic where a temporary shortage of the crop has occurred, a large portion, however, by necessity going to the capital city.

General Murguia, who is in command of the military forces operating against bandits in Chihuahua, is establishing a patrol that will seek to cover the entire boundary line between that State and the United States, in order to prevent thieves from taking stolen cattle out of the Republic.

The Governor of the State of Colima reports that that section is in complete tranquillity. He also declares that there is no food shortage of any kind, but that there is an abundance of corn, wheat, rice and other articles of food, which are sold at exceptionally low prices.

General Manager Fontes, of the Constitutionalist Railways, reports that the condition of the Mexican Railway, the Vera Cruz and Isthmus, the National of Tehuantepec, and the Pan-American is unsurpassable and that the passenger and freight service on them is regular and satisfactory.

The National Chamber of Commerce has asked that a reduction be made in freight rates on food articles of prime necessity in order to facilitate transportation to those portions of the Republic where they are needed. President Carranza has approved the request and it has been acted upon.

At the municipal elections recently held throughout the Republic, General Alvaro Obregon was chosen as the Presidente (Mayor) of the town of Huatabampo, in the State of Sonora, a small place which was his birthplace and where he is now engaged in agricultural and commercial pursuits.

The special commission charged with the revision of the local taxes in the Federal District has completed its labors. Special attention has been paid to the charges for water, sewage, etc., and in every way it has been sought to equalize and make the burdens as light as possible commensurate with the public necessities.

In order to reduce the price of fresh meat and to end the monopoly enjoyed under an old concession by a single packing house in Mexico City, a decree has been issued permitting the introduction of such articles from any other locality upon the payment of a small fee for sanitary inspection—less than one-half cent per pound.

In response to requests from expatriated Mexicans, Governor Esteban Cantu, of the Territory of Lower California, announces that all such who desire to return to their native land will be welcomed and given every facility to obtain employment. It is also announced that there is abundance of employment for all desiring it throughout the Republic.

The President of the Republic has called a special session of the National Congress for April 1st, for the purpose of considering the law that has been prepared regulating the election of Deputies and Senators and also that of President. The recent State elections held in Tamaulipas will also be investigated. These are the only subjects mentioned in the Presidential proclamation calling the session.

A decree has been issued by the President establishing a head tax of fifty cents national gold upon all persons entering the Republic across either frontier, north or south, and by any seaport. This is equivalent to 25 cents in American money. People coming from Mexico into the United States are required by the American authorities to pay a tax of $8 American gold.

The State Congress of Yucatan has directed the local officials in all municipalities to proceed with all possible speed in the work of founding communities and the allotment of lands therefor in order to stimulate the cultivation of the soil and the production of those articles of food supply which have in the past been imported from other portions of the Republic or from foreign countries.

General Murguia has transferred his headquarters from the city of Chihuahua to Durango, for the purpose of prosecuting with vigor the campaign against Villa, who remains secluded in the almost inaccessible mountains of that region with the exception of an occasional foray into some unprotected town. General Murguia is confident he will be able to eliminate the bandit leader within a brief period.

A large area of hitherto submerged lands at Lake Texcoco, in the vicinity of Mexico City, has been reclaimed by drainage, and it is announced that these will be allotted to applicants at the ratio of twelve and one-half acres to each. These lands are very fertile and a tract of this size will amply support a family of average size. They resemble the so-called floating islands of Xochimilco, which are among the most productive in the world.

Governor Domingo Arrieta, of the State of Durango, reports that the restitution of community lands to their rightful owners is proceeding with all possible celerity in that State, while new allotments are being made for those desiring them. It was in Durango that the first actual steps in returning community lands were taken in August, 1913, by the present Secretary of Fomento, Pastor Rouaix, acting in conjunction with President Carranza.

It is authoritatively stated that the typhus fever, which has prevailed at all times for many years in Mexico City under various administrations, has now almost entirely disappeared. Less than fifteen cases were reported for the first week of March in a population of upward of 750,000. The energetic measures carried out by the National Health Board are responsible for this unprecedented condition in the history of the capital city.

It is announced that certain foreign capitalists have taken up the question of the construction of a railway from the city of Durango to the port of Mazatlan. A line was surveyed many years ago, but with the exception of the construction within recent years of some sixty or seventy miles into the heart of the timber belt west of Durango city, nothing has ever been done. A very rich mineral timber and agricultural region would be rendered capable of development by such a railway, which has been retarded in the past for lack of transportation facilities.

The special commission appointed by the Treasury Department to make an inventory of the churches in the Republic and estimate their value to the nation, which is the owner thereof and has been since the adoption of the Juarez constitution of 1857, reports that there are over six thousand in existence, and that five thousand have been estimated to be worth a total of $100,000,000. The balance have not yet been valued, but will add considerably to this total. Notice has been given that all privately owned churches or chapels come under the constitutional provision as to governmental ownership.

Seventy millions of pesos of the paper currency of the Bank of London and Mexico have been called in and destroyed, leaving thirty millions still outstanding and which will be redeemed as soon as the process of liquidation shall permit it. This is one of the institutions which enjoyed special privileges regarding the issuance of paper currency, but which refused to obey the law requiring sufficient metallic reserve for redemption, and also refused to accept its own bills except at a heavy discount. These were among the causes that led to the liquidation by the enforcement of the law governing such matters.

Light on Border Conditions

An American Citizen's Statement of the Actual Situation Along the Rio Grande

SOME time since Colonel H. J. Slocum, commanding American forces on the border, requested Mr. Emilio C. Forto, an American citizen of Brownsville, Texas, to make a written statement of conditions in that region. Mr. Forto has been a resident of Brownsville for fifty years and has held the offices of Sheriff and County Judge, as well as other public positions.

His statement to Colonel Slocum is as follows:

BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, Feb. 12. 1918.

COLONEL H. J. SLOCUM, U. S. A.:

My Dear Colonel Slocum:—Referring to our recent conversation and to my promise to write my views relative to the matters then discussed—to wit, the present conditions along the Lower Rio Grande border—I wish to state that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to contribute this mite, believing that you are personally somewhat familiar with the border Mexican and with his history.

I have spent some time in an effort to analyze conditions along this border, and especially as they now confront us, and as a result of my efforts I have concluded that there are four distinct causes to which our troubles may be attributed, namely:

(1) A lack of sympathetic understanding between the two races.

(2) The unwillingness of American newcomers to the valley to accept the Mexican and his habits and customs as he finds them.

(3) The introduction of so many rules and innovations so entirely incomprehensible to the ignorant class of Mexicans; and last but not least:

(4) The reckless manner in which undisciplined "pistol toters," Rangers and other civil officers, have been permitted to act as trial judge, jury and executioners.

Sympathetic Understanding

The border Mexican is a peace-loving, law-abiding and pleasure-seeking individual. He seeks no one's injury. As a rule he is kindly disposed and ever willing to share his half a loaf with the most abject stranger. Womanhood feels safe in his presence, and the horrible stories of criminal assault so common elsewhere in the United States have no place here. A girl may go about the streets of Brownsville or along the public highways at midnight and feel safe. And since the days of 1860 to 1865, when war was the rule of the day, the number of murders committed here has been 75 per cent less proportionately than in Dallas, Texas, or other large cities. But in a community 75 per cent Mexican, there is naturally a tendency to cling to Mexican ideals, customs and manners. Here is where the lack of sympathetic understanding figures. Ninety per cent of the Americans do not appear to understand and do not seem to care to learn the customs or to respect the ideals of the Mexicans.

The border Mexican as a rule is illiterate and consequently not well informed as to hygienic and sanitary requisites. Twenty-five per cent of the new-comers usually look upon the Mexican as a filthy, unsanitary and sickly makeshift. They cannot and generally they will not assimilate him. Therefore everything relative to the Mexican and his habits becomes repulsive to the American who has been fed on anti-germ theories for a lifetime. I do not mean this as a comparison, nor do I mean to belittle the American for his beliefs. I merely refer to it as one of the obstacles to fraternal progress and the consequent uplift of a peace-loving people. I would not have the American change his belief, but would wish that he might not condemn the Mexican because the latter has not been educated in the same belief.

The territory on both sides of the Rio Grande was occupied by Spaniards and Mexicans as far back as 1760, and since that time their descendants have continued to live on both sides of the boundary separating the United States and Mexico. It is frequently the case that a daughter or a son of a family residing on the Texas side, marries a daughter or a son residing on the Mexican side. Through generations these intermingled and intermarried families have been accustomed to row or ford across the river and pay daily or weekly visits to each other. A species of brotherhood has always existed between the families of each and both sides.

Dainty morsels of Mexican cooking were taken from the mother on one side to the son or daughter on the other. The Mexican people never have been able to understand what harm could be in this exchange of courtesies, etc.

Of late years our immigration laws have become more exacting and stringent, and it has been very difficult to educate the Mexican to the new rules and innovations in so short a time, consequently they cannot see the wrong in stealing their way across the Rio Grande, at what are termed clandestine ferries.

And lately, since the stringent food laws have been so drastically enforced, they still less understand what the wrong can be to come across at any point and buy the common necessities of life. But much of this might have been explained and a more friendly feeling brought about if the officers sent down here to handle these questions had studied the sympathetic side and were better acquainted with the Mexican language and their ways and peculiarities, as well as being possessed of some discretion and a good measure of common sense.

For instance, it is a fact that nearly one-half of the families of Mexican origin residing in Brownsville have relatives in Matamoros (the cities facing each other), and even in cases of serious illness those residing in Brownsville find it extremely difficult if not impossible to go to the bedside of their dear ones residing on the opposite side. There have been such cases of emergency, and it does seem that the officers who are in touch with humanity could with propriety accept the word of reputable citizens and allow human affection to run its natural course. The interests of the country could not suffer nor any law be violated by the application of common sense and the use of a measure of consideration for the ignorant laboring classes, who are more liable to err through their lack of knowledge than through malice.

Some such leniency on the part of our officers towards these people would greatly assist in bringing about a feeling of friendship between the authorities and people of both sides of the boundary.

It is an unquestionable fact that the undisciplined Ranger force is responsible for the enmity and friction existing between Mexicans and Americans, while they (the Mexicans) have great regard for and maintain friendly relations with the United States soldiers, whom they consider their protectors.

During the so-called Mexican bandit raids many lives of good Mexicans were sacrificed by Rangers and other civil officers, and the more ignorant and illiterate Mexicans were induced to become revengeful against Americans, and as a matter of fact the soldiers received the brunt of their antagonism and attack while looking after the Rangers.

It would require a lengthy discourse to place before you the real happenings of the alleged bandit raids in 1915, what brought them about, etc. Suffice to say, they were stimulated by the killing of two brothers from Mercedes on or about July 24, 1915; the lynching of a boy named Muñoz at San Benito about the same time; the indiscriminate killing of a father and two sons named Flores in the presence of the wife and mother of ten other surviving children at the Arroyo Colorado, without any provocation whatsoever, and many others whose names could be secured. The number of victims thus sacrificed by such peace officers assuming the powers of a court of justice will probably never be known, though I understand that Attorney F. C. Pierce holds a list with names *of nearly 300!*

From all reports (some from army officers whose testimony is probably available) a campaign of extermination seemed to have begun in those days. The cry was often heard, *"We have to make this a white man's country!"* It would not be difficult to establish the fact that many well-to-do natives of Texas, of Mexican origin, were driven away by Rangers, who told them "If you are found here in the next five days you will be dead." They were in this way forced to abandon their property, which they sold at almost any price.

Cananea Copper Mines

Heavy Yield and Immense Profits Realized—Operations Resumed After Several Months of Idleness

THE resumption of operations by the Cananea Consolidated Copper Company was announced some time ago, and the plant is now running at full blast. A recent issue of the *Industrial and Mining Age* gives the following interesting facts regarding this concern, one of the greatest copper-producing companies in the world:

"The annual report of the company for 1916 shows that the gross revenues of its subsidiaries amounted to $17,535.366. Operating costs, expenditures and taxes totaled $10.326,412, leaving $7,208,954. Miscellaneous income was $480,051 and the value of copper in process was $156,043 in excess of inventory, making $7,845.048. Depreciation and interest charges were $171,863. The company paid dividends of $3,418,956, equivalent to about $7 a share on the present outstanding 487,428 shares of $100 par. The surplus at the close of the year was $4,073,184, which, added to previous combined surplus, made a total of $9,864,485, equivalent to $20.20 a share. It is calculated that from the present surplus the company could pay dividends at the present rate of $8 a share per annum for two years, even though the property remained idle.

"Dividends paid to date aggregate $11,602,372, equivalent to $12.36 a share on the outstanding 487,428 shares. On December 31, 1916, net assets amounted to $48,881,899, or about $100 a share, equal to the par value. This included investments in subsidiary companies.

"George Kingdon, who several months ago resigned the presidency of the San Pedro Company and as general manager of Greene-Cananea interests to take the management of the United Verde Ex. mine at Jerome, Ariz., is authority for the statement that ore reserves during the year prior to the suspension of operations in June last were increased at least 10,000,000 tons and that there was enough proved ore in the propetries to last many years at the highest rate of production the company has yet attained. The ore averages 3½ per cent copper.

"The metal yield from the 1916 operations of the Greene-Cananea subsidiaries amounted to 62,250,067 pounds of copper, 1,975,734 ounces of silver and 11,692 ounces of gold. For the first half of the present year, or rather up to the time of the suspension of operations on June 22, production of copper amounted to 21,030,000 pounds of copper and approximately 666,651 ounces of silver, which at the current prices of those metals would have a gross value of $4,942,050 and $569,153, respectively, or a total of $5,511,203. It was officially announced soon after the suspension of operations that the company earned during the period named $4,000,000 on a basis of 28 cents a pound received for the copper produced and a production cost of 14 cents a pound. This is at the annual rate of $8,000,000, equivalent to $16.41 a share.

"It will be seen from these figures that while classed as copper mines, the Greene-Cananea properties are important producers of silver as a by-product. There is no doubt that the need of silver in Mexico, which at present has an all-metallic monetary system, was a factor in the desire of the Mexican Government officials to see the Greene-Cananea properties become active."

In so far as I know, the Ranger force has never been an element of pacification along these border counties, and peaceful conditions may best be secured if United States troops continue to remain in this section and patrol the river front as they do at present.

In conclusion, I may here state that during my fifty years residence in Brownsville I have held the offices of Sheriff and County Judge for nearly twenty years, and as many in the capacity of Secretary of the School Board of Trustees for the city of Brownsville. My experience with the border Mexicans on both sides of the river during that time, coupled with my knowledge of the Spanish language, I believe, has qualified me to speak knowingly upon the subject matter of this communication.

As a rule, Americans who have lived among Mexicans of the border for a period of five years or more, usually concede that they are all that might be asked for in a community, in so far as peace and law abiding are concerned. Of course, they have their faults and weak points, as other nationalities have, but they are the kind needed on our farms and for other manual occupations.

Hoping I may not have trespassed too much upon your valuable time,

I am, very truly yours,
(Signed) E. C. FORTO.

The port of Tampico will soon become the leading one of the eastern coast of Mexico, displacing Vera Cruz, which has enjoyed that supremacy ever since the conquest. During the year just passed 1,247 vessels sailed from Tampico to American destinations, while a large number (not stated) went to European and other ports. The principal article of export was petroleum.

The President has declared null and void all concessions heretofore granted for the exploitation of the natural resources of the Territory of Quaintana Roo, by reason of the failure of the concessionaires to comply with the terms of their contracts. Chicle and rubber are among the principal products of that section and are collected from wild trees.

A pension law is being prepared which shall deal solely with survivors of those who lost their lives in either the military or civil service of the Republic from the commencement of the Revolution in 1910 down to date. The pensions heretofore granted to such survivors have been either by executive order or by action of the National Chamber of Deputies in individual cases.

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT MEXICO

MEXICO is officially called "Estados Unidos Mexicanos" and "Republica Mexicana." On some maps it is called "Estados Unidos del Sur," or "United States of the South," while the United States of America is called "Estados Unidos del Norte," or "United States of the North."

Mexico has an area of 767,290 square miles.

The greatest length of the country is from northwest to southeast, 1,900 miles; its greatest width, 750 miles, and its general width about 140 miles.

The outline of Mexico is sometimes compared to a huge cornucopia, with its opening toward the United States.

There are 4,574 miles of coast line on the Pacific side, including the Gulf of California.

The coast line on the Gulf of Mexico measures about 1,400 miles, and there are 327 miles on the Carribean Sea.

An immense elevated plateau, with a chain of mountains on its eastern and western margins, occupies the greater part of the country.

The "tierras calientes," or hot lands, are low plains lying along the coast on both sides of Mexico. This lowlands region in general is from 30 to 40 miles wide and very unhealthy.

The great Plauteau of Mexico is very largely of volcanic origin.

The general elevation of the highest part of the plateau is about 8,000 feet in the States of Mexico and Puebla.

The highest mountain peaks are the gigantic, snowclad, extinct volcanoes, Popocatepetl (Smoking Mountain) and Ixtaccihatl (White Woman), 17,888 and 17,343 feet high, respectively. These peaks are about 20 miles southeast of Mexico City.

Mexico has few large rivers, small streams flowing from the mountain slopes at the edge of the great plateau eastward to the gulf and westward to the Pacific. Its peculiar surface formation, a high plateau shut in by mountain barriers, and the narrow lowland region between it and the coast does not permit the development of large river basins.

The Rio Grande del Norte, or Rio Bravo, on the northern frontier, is practically an American river, as it rises in American territory and receives but very little water from the Mexican side.

The lakes in Mexico are small and few. The six small lakes in the valley of Mexico are the remains of a lake once occupying the whole valley, and are gradually disappearing. Lake Chapala in the State of Jalisco is the largest.

Tampico harbor has been improved by breakwater, or jetties, and deepening of the channel, so that it is deep and commodious.

With the possible exception of Peru, the most ancient remains of human civilization on the western hemisphere are to be found in Mexico. There are many indications that these were of Mongolian and also Egyptian origin. There were three periods of such civilization.

In the summer time, one finds it cooler the farther south he goes on the central plateau. This is because of the increase in altitude. Mexico City is always cool.

New Law of Petroleum Lands

Taxes Upon Them and Upon Petroleum Contracts Executed Before May 1, 1917, for the Exploitation of Oil Deposits

THE statement having been widely published that the new decree regarding taxation of petroleum lands "cancels oil leases made since April 30, 1917," and that it is "virtually confiscatory," the complete text of the decree is given herewith:

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants—be it known:

That in use of the extraordinary powers conferred upon the Department of Hacienda by the Congress of the Union, it has been deemed advisable to issue the following decree:

Art. I.—There is hereby established a tax upon the petroleum lands and upon petroleum contracts which have been entered into prior to May 1, 1917, and which may have as an object the lease of lands for the exploitation of carburets of hydrogen or the permission to make this exploitation by means of onerous title.

Art. II.—The annual rents stipulated in the contracts mentioned in Article I, are hereby taxed in the following proportion:

(a) Those of five pesos annual rental per hectare or less, with ten per cent of the entire value of the rent.

(b) Those of over five pesos and less than ten pesos per hectare per annum, with ten per cent for the first five pesos and with twenty per cent for the remainder.

(c) Rents of over ten pesos annually per hectare, with ten per cent on the first five pesos, twenty per cent for the next five, and fifty per cent for all over the first ten pesos.

Art. III.—All royalties stipulated in petroleum contracts are hereby taxed with fifty per cent of their total in cash or in specie according to the determination of the Department of Finance.

Art. IV.—The deposits exploited by the owners of the superficial lands are hereby taxed with an annual rent of five pesos per hectare, besides with a royalty of five per cent of their value in cash or specie, according to the determination in each case made by the Department of Finance.

Art. V.—The Department of Finance shall notify the persons interested during the last fortnight of each two months whether they must pay in specie or in cash the royalty corresponding to the production of the two months ending within said fortnight.

Art. VI.—Taxes fixed by Article II shall be paid in the local offices of the Internal Stamp Revenue in whose jurisdiction are located the lands in question, and in case that said lands may belong to several jurisdictions, in the office the Department of Finance may designate, after previous consultation with the interested parties. This payment shall be made in advance and during the first fortnight of each two months.

Art. VII.—The royalties which must be paid in cash shall be entered in the offices mentioned in the previous article and on the same date stipulated therein, and at the expiration of the two months.

Art. VIII.—The payment of the amounts mentioned in Article II, III and IV shall be made by using special stamps which will read "Petroleum Taxes."

Art. IX.—The interested parties owing the tax established by this law shall present during the first fortnight of each two months a report in accordance with the blank which the Director-General of Internal Revenue may authorize, giving the rents, production and all the information necessary to calculate the taxes. These reports shall be made at the revenue offices mentioned in Article VI.

Art. X.—Transfers of contracts taxed by this law shall be reported at the same offices mentioned in Article VI within thirty days from their conclusion. Besides this obligation of both parties they shall also give immediate notice to the office of the Director-General of Revenue of the notaries attesting said transfers.

Art. XI.—All the amounts corresponding to royalties or their fractions which must be paid in specie shall be delivered at any of the storage stations belonging to the exploiter at the choice of the Department of Finance, which will designate the place of delivery and the form of payment.

Art. XII.—When royalties or fractions thereof must be paid in cash they shall be valued taking the fiscal value of the product at the point of shipment according to the tariff issued every two months by the Department of Finance, and deducting the cost of transportation by pipe line in relation to the distance from the producing field to the shipping point, and the average tariff for the public authorized by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor for oleoducts of the region under consideration. The Department of Taxes of the Department of Finance shall be obliged to advise in due time the local collectors of internal revenue in regard to the values above mentioned, in order that these officers may be able to verify the reports.

Art. XIII.—On petroleum lands for which no rent is being paid at the present time, there shall be paid five pesos a year per hectare, and for those not paying royalty at the present time five per cent of the products. The payment mentioned in this article shall be made under the same conditions established by law for other taxpayers.

Art. XIV.—Owners of lands who may wish to exploit on their own account the petroleum deposits from the subsoil and who have not entered into any petroleum contracts, as well as the last cessionary of the exploitation titles of the contracts mentioned in Article X of this law, shall make a report within three months following its promulgation, including a certified copy of the deed of sale, of lease, or of any other kind, to the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, which shall revise the reports and refuse those containing statements without foundation. After this period has elapsed there shall be declared vacant all petroleum deposits which have not been registered in the form prescribed in this article, governing their denunciation and exploitation by the rules which may be issued, which shall determine who are the persons owing the tax.

Art. XV.—Contracts referred to in this law shall be made in a public deed, and those entered into in private will be valid when owing to the unimportance of the transaction, they do not require the formality of a public deed, and that may be irrefutably proven that said contracts were entered into on the dates which they may indicate and with the clauses therein mentioned.

Art. XVI.—Royalties established by this law, royalty fractions mentioned in Article III, the tax upon rents established in Article II, and other rents established in this law, shall be paid at the local offices of Internal Revenue by the exploiters or last cessionaries of the exploitation rights, who at the time of making the payment to the intermediators or owners, shall deduct the part proportionally to the tax corresponding to them, in such a way that the rents and federal royalties may be distributed in the same proportion than the rents and royalties now established upon petroleum lands in the various existing contracts which may have as an object the right of the exploitation of petroleum.

Art. XVII.—The taxes which are not paid at the time established in this law shall suffer a surcharge of ten per cent for each month due.

Art. XVIII.—The product of this tax shall be distributed in the following manner:

Sixty per cent to the Federal Government; twenty per cent to the State Governments; and twenty per cent to the Municipal Governments, taking into consideration the location of the lands in question. When the lands are located in two or more municipalities or in two or more States, the Department of Finance shall distribute the tax, taking into consideration the area of the land included in each jurisdiction, the location of the wells and their productions and other necessary circumstances relating thereto.

Art. XIX.—Infractions of the precepts of this law shall be punished with fines varying from $50 to $1000 in accordance with the gravity of the offense, without prejudice to the consigning of the case to the judicial authorities in case of transgression.

Art. XX.—This law shall begin to take effect from the date of its enactment. Therefore I hereby order it to be printed, published, circulated and given due observance.

Given at the National Palace of the Executive Power in Mexico, on the 19th day of February, 1918.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

A. MADRAZO, Chief Official of the Department of Finance and Public Credit.

Proposed Petroleum Law

Projected Legislation to Be Submitted to the Industrial Congress and to the National Chamber of Deputies

(*Concluded*)

Article 124.—In the case of the lands "pro indiviso," referred to in Article 19, if any of the joint owners does not pay, after being required to do so, his share in the rent or in the other expenses derived from the obligations imposed upon by this concession, another joint owner may pay them. In doing so the latter will increase his share. In case that several of the joint owners may ask to pay for the dilatory joint owner, the joint owner shall be decided by lot, who will make the payment.

Article 125.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall visit, through its inspectors, the petroleum deposits and the installations attached therein, directly assigned to the petroleum works.

These visits shall have as an object:

I. To determine if the regulations and dispositions of exploitation are duly observed.

II. To obtain scientific and statistic data in regard to the petroleum industry.

III. To investigate if there are in existence or not attacks on free land or on another deposit, at the petition of a legitimate party.

Article 126.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall order in accordance with the report of the inspector or upon information of the local authorities, the suspension of the petroleum works which do not subject themselves to the regulations of exploitation. The effects of the order of suspension will last as long as the cause giving motive to this measure does not disappear.

Article 127.—In urgent and grave cases the suspension can be ordered at the request of the Governor of the State or of the Mayor, without fulfilling the requisites established in the previous Article.

Article 128.—In any case of suspension of works not well founded in the opinion of any official inspector of the Department of Industry and Commerce, the latter shall order an inspection at the earliest possible time.

Article 129.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall determine the number of the petroleum agencies and the jurisdiction of each one of them, taking into account the necessities for the discharge of their business. The same Department shall decide the doubts which may arise in regard to each jurisdiction.

Article 130.—When the concessionary of a petroleum deposit may satisfactorily prove before the Department of Industry and Commerce the loss of his original title, another one may be issued at his expense, in which shall be recorded the motive of the issuance and the cancellation of the original.

Article 131.—The titles of petroleum deposits which the Department of Industry and Commerce may issue shall be validated only with the signature of the Secretary of the same Department.

Article 132.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall issue the regulations and other dispositions having as an object to enforce the precepts of this law.

Transitory Articles

I. This law shall begin to take effect fifteen days after its promulgation.

II. The proprietors of superficial lands which have not made a rent contract or any other contract relating with the exploitation of hydrocarbures, shall enjoy the preferential right to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of his property during the term of six months, counting from the date of the enforcement of this law. The term for the community lands shall be counted from the date of the adjudication of the fractions.

III. The last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures based on contracts celebrated before February 5th, shall also enjoy the right of preference to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of their leased lands, during the same time of six months beginning from the time of enforcement of this law. In order to enjoy this franchise they shall prove that they are registered in the Petroleum Division of the Department of Industry and Commerce, and that they have paid in full the fixed share of inspection.

IV. If the last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures included in the prescriptions of the previous Article do not make use of the preferential right given them in said Article, they shall be considered as having abandoned it, and the right shall pass to the penultimate holders, applying the same rule successively until reaching the proprietors. In all cases there shall be observed the prescriptions of the previous Article, except the case of the proprietor, which will be included in Article II.

V. In the case of the lands referred to in the two previous Articles, there shall be considered those lands in two classes and divided as follows:

A. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right establishing an annual rent less than double that fixed for the hectare.

B. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right, establishing an annual rent equal or larger than the double of that fixed for the hectare

VI. In all cases the government of the nation shall collect the annual rent which may be fixed per hectare upon titled deposits. But as a gratuitous concession in the case of the lands referred to in the three previous Articles, the Government shall proceed as follows:

Lands of Class "A"

During the first year after the date of the denouncement, the proprietor and the intermediary contractors shall receive fifty per cent of the rent fixed in the last contract shown in order to distribute it among all in proportion, in accordance with their contracts; during the second year they shall receive forty per cent of the same rent; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent of said rent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In all cases the difference in the rent fixed and collected by the Government shall remain in their fvaor as well as in the fifth year, and thereafter the rent for a hectare shall remain totally in the possession of the government.

Lands of Class "B"

All lands included in this class shall be considered with an annual rent equal to double that fixed for a hectare, and the procedures shall be in the whole in accordance with the lands considered as Class "A."

VII. In the cases of land referred to in Articles III and IV there shall be considered only a participation or domain of fifty per cent on the production, and as a gratuitous concession of the government shall proceed in regard to this participation as follows:

During the first year after the date of the denouncement of the respective petroleum deposit, the proprietor of the land and the intermediate tenants shall receive fifty per cent of the participation referred to in order to distribute it proportionately among all, in accordance with their contracts; in the second year they shall receive forty per cent of said participation; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In each case the difference on the participation collected shall remain in favor of the government, and from the fifth year thereafter, the total of this participation shall remain exclusively in favor of the government.

VIII. All the lands referred to in Articles II and VII which may not have been denounced in the time of six months counting from the date of the enforcement of this law and which may be included within the limits of the States of Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan, Chiapas and the Territory of Quintana Roo, shall be considered as national reservations and subject for its exploitation to the contents of Article 24 of this law.

IX. Persons or companies which may have in force a contract celebrated with the Government of the Nation to explore or exploit petroleum lands, shall be considered as denouncers of the deposits which may be included in the lands they have as a concession, except that in the term of six months counting from the enforcement of this law, they may manifest their desire of renouncing or of reducing their petroleum claims, before the Department of Industry and Commerce. If they do not make this manifestation they shall remain immediately after subject in full to the requisites and conditions established by this law and its regulations.

X. In lands of an extension of less than four hectares on which there may now exist wells in perforation or in production protected by permits given previously, the denouncement of the deposit shall be admitted, without regard to the superficial area.

XI. Hereby are declared void and null all

laws and legal dispositions in opposition to this law.

Constitutional Provision Referred to in the Foregoing

Reference is made in the foregoing to the provisions of Article 27 of the new constitution. The section most frequently referred to has to do with the acquisition of properties by foreigners. It is as follows:

"Section 1.—Only Mexicans by birth or by naturalization, and Mexican associations, companies or incorporations, have the right to acquire ownership of the lands, waters and their accessories, or to obtain concessions for the exploitation of mines, waters or mineral combustibles in the Mexican Republic. The State can grant the same rights to foreigners under the condition that they must pledge themselves to the Ministry of Foreign Relations to the effect that they will consent to be considered as natives *in respect to said properties,* and that they will not ask by reason of being foreigners the protection of their governments *with respect to the same properties;* in case of their failure to comply with their agreement to forfeit the properties that they may have acquired by virtue of said pledge, the said properties will then revert to the benefit of the nation. For no reason whatever will foreigners be allowed to acquire direct control over lands and waters located in a belt one hundred kilometers wide along the frontiers, or in a belt of fifty kilometers wide along the shore lines."

Great Activity Around Tuxpam

REPORTS from Tampico declare that the petroleum region in that portion of the Republic, and more particularly around Tuxpam, the most important producing and exporting point next to Tampico, is entering upon a most prosperous period and promises to become one of the most flourishing portions of the country. Several of the large petroleum companies which have extensive properties in that region are preparing to carry out extensive boring operations for new wells, and also the construction of pipe lines for conveying the oil to the point of debarkation. Several hundred working men recently arrived at Tuxpam from the interior and more are expected shortly. They will all be employed upon the new work that is being undertaken and will be carried out now that the petroleum region is for the most part under permanent Government control.

An extensive American concern, the Central Oil Development and Transportation Company, with six million dollars capital, has recently commenced operations in the Tampico district, and has consolidated a number of smaller concerns which were hampered by lack of capital and other facilities. This is welcomed as an evidence of the faith of capitalists in the security of the district.

Recently published statements regarding conditions in the Tampico oil region and the alleged intention of the United States to interfere, have been positively denied by the American State Department as without foundation.

Oil Land Rentals and The Bank Reserve

AT a recent Cabinet meeting consideration was given to a project to regulate the rentals of petroliferous lands according to their actual value instead of at a flat rate. It was conceded that lands upon which petroleum had actually been discovered were of greater value than those where it was only supposed to exist but its presence had not been demonstrated. Therefore the latter class should not be called upon to pay in the same ratio as the former. It is proposed to embody this idea in the legislation that is to be enacted at the next session of Congress concerning such matters.

The question was also discussed of devoting the proceeds from certain forms of taxation entirely to the establishment of the sole bank of emission authorized by Congress. It has been arranged that a large amount of money paid over to the Government through the settlement of the Tehuantepec Railway concessions heretofore held by the Piersons should be devoted entirely to increase of the reserve of the "Banco de la Republica Mexicana," which will open for business on April 1st. The amount so utilized will, it is stated, aggregate some fifteen millions of pesos.

GEORGE WILSON
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THE SPANISH-AMERICAN DIRECTORY AND BUYERS' GUIDE
IN THE UNITED STATES
In Spanish, Portuguese, English and French

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Export Taxes on Rubber And on Metals

ON the 29th of January a decree reducing the export taxes on rubber and on metals was promulgated, to take effect on the 1st of February and to remain in force during the period of suspension of free interchange of products:

Guayule (rubber plant) in the herb, including other forms of rubber-producing plants not specified, 3 per cent ad valorem upon the rubber contents.

Rubber and the gum guayule, 2 per cent ad valorem.

Graphite, uncrystallized or refined, 1.30 per cent of the value of the metal.

Other metals—3 per cent of the value of the metal.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

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To Manufacturers, Exporters and Importers in the United States

Americans living abroad introduce American goods, create a demand and make a market. They develop the native products and ship to their country. They build railroads, open mines, utilize water powers, develop oil fields, make plantations, establish factories and construct public works. They are advance agents for foreign business and they get it. They are trade missionaries, always at work. They have the spirit of the pioneers who made the great West. They should have the heartiest support and co-operation of their government and people at home.

The American residents of Mexico City on November 8, 1917, incorporated the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico to promote international trade, and furnish a reliable channel of communication. They are trying to meet German activities here. They are preparing for future expansion. Every manufacturer, exporter and importer in the United States should become a member of this Chamber, in self interest and common interest. It makes for restoration of peace and development of trade in this naturally rich country.

Write for information.

American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, S. C. L.
Apartado 82 Bis, Mexico City, Mexico

January 1, 1918.

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Educational Progress in Sonora

FROM the reports filed by Provisional Governor de la Huerta, of the State of Sonora, when he turned over his office to Governor Calles, it is learned that educational affairs received much attention during his administration. Some comparative figures are of interest. Thus, in 1907 there were 178 schools in the State, while now there are 341. In 1907 there were 10,804 pupils in attendance at the public schools, while now there are 24,187. From 342 teachers in 1907, the number has increased to 875. In 1907 the total amount expended upon schools for the year was $247,954. In 1912, $593,785 was expended upon educational matters, while in 1917 the total was $1,483,336.40. There has been a large addition to the number of schoolhouses, while industrial and technical night and day schools have also been established and a compulsory educational decree is also in force.

Under the auspices of General Calles, Governor of the State of Sonora, a school for the orphans of those who lost their lives in the Revolution has been opened at Hermosillo, the State capital. A large number of applications for admission were presented in advance of the opening of the institution.

Concessions Forfeited for Failure to Comply

A SPECIAL commission was some time ago appointed to examine into concessions that have been held by the Bank of London and Mexico for several years, covering an area of 1,487,200 acres in the Territory of Quintana Roo and 154,000 acres in the State of Yucatan. These lands were granted on the condition that they should be colonized. Investigation has shown that this was never complied with, but that the exploitation of the chicle and other products was the only use made. Because of such failure, the lands have been forfeited to the National Government, and will now be allotted wherever possible to those who are desirous to cultivate them.

Large Increase in Customs Collections

THE Director General of the Department of Customs reports that for the eight months commencing May 1st and ending December 31, 1917, the total customs collections, both import and export dues, were $31,958,585.64. The total expense of collection was $1,408,834.

At the same average ratio for the remaining four months of the year, the total collections would amount to $46,937,876.96. The collections show a large increase over those of previous years. For example, the total collected for import and export duties in the year 1911-12 was $42,686,356, or considerably less than the total for the year just ended. These figures are justly regarded as an encouraging indication of the rapidly improving financial condition of the country.

Invitations for an Anti-Alcoholic Congress

THE Legislature of the State of Yucatan has sent invitations to all the States in the Republic to attend a congress for the purpose of discussing and adopting laws looking toward the total prohibition of the sale of alcoholic and intoxicating beverages throughout the entire country. A special commission appointed by the Yucatan Legislature to promote the movement reports that since the adoption of prohibition in that State the condition of the people has been immeasurably improved and it is strenuously recommended that the movement be made general. The prohibition does not apply to light wines and beer of low alcoholic strength.

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Strict Neutrality Should Be Maintained

MINISTER CANDIDO AGUILAR, of the Department of Foreign Relations, recently accorded the representatives of the press an interview, in which he denied with emphasis certain disquieting rumors that had been circulated regarding the diplomatic relations of Mexico with the other countries, both belligerents and neutrals. The Minister expressed himself as follows:

"Diplomatic relations with the United States continue friendly, as well as with all the other countries with which Mexico has maintained them for a long time. It is true that in certain locations, and as a natural consequence of the world war, there have occurred incidents not only between Mexico and the United States, but also with others of the belligerent countries. But these cases are similar to those registered between the same countries and the neutral countries, and on our part we are doing everything feasible to solve them in the best manner possible.

"The Mexican Government on its part continues firm in its desire to preserve its neutrality until the termination of the present conflict, because it is firmly believed that this international policy is the best for the interests of the country.

"It is absolutely anti-patriotic to engage in any demonstration of an international character which it may be proposed to carry out at this present time, not for the significance of the persons against whom they may be inaugurated, but because they do not have any practical purpose whatever, and on the other hand may give cause for disagreeable incidents which no doubt would hamper the activities of this Government. On the other hand, the newspapers, decidedly pro-Ally or pro-German, which lately have distinguished themselves for their intemperance of language in treating international questions, would greatly and patriotically help the Government and at the same time would facilitate the solution of the great problems which the administration is now facing, if they would only modify their insulting attacks, and above all abstain themselves from mutually making discourteous remarks about the governments and diplomatic representatives accredited before our Government from the belligerent countries."

The Mexican Red Cross Society has secured contributions of large quantities of tobacco and cigarettes, which are being shipped to Europe for distribution among the Allied troops.

New Law of Petroleum Lands

Taxes Upon Them and Upon Petroleum Contracts Executed Before May 1, 1917, for the Exploitation of Oil Deposits

THE statement having been widely published that the new decree regarding taxation of petroleum lands "cancels oil leases made since April 30, 1917," and that it is "virtually confiscatory," the complete text of the decree is given herewith:

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants—be it known:

That in use of the extraordinary powers conferred upon the Department of Hacienda by the Congress of the Union, it has been deemed advisable to issue the following decree:

Art. I.—There is hereby established a tax upon the petroleum lands and upon petroleum contracts which have been entered into prior to May 1, 1917, and which may have as an object the lease of lands for the exploitation of carburets of hydrogen or the permission to make this exploitation by means of onerous title.

Art. II.—The annual rents stipulated in the contracts mentioned in Article I, are hereby taxed in the following proportion:

(a) Those of five pesos annual rental per hectare or less, with ten per cent of the entire value of the rent.

(b) Those of over five pesos and less than ten pesos per hectare per annum, with ten per cent for the first five pesos and with twenty per cent for the remainder.

(c) Rents of over ten pesos annually per hectare, with ten per cent on the first five pesos, twenty per cent for the next five, and fifty per cent for all over the first ten pesos.

Art. III.—All royalties stipulated in petroleum contracts are hereby taxed with fifty per cent of their total in cash or in specie according to the determination of the Department of Finance.

Art. IV.—The deposits exploited by the owners of the superficial lands are hereby taxed with an annual rent of five pesos per hectare, besides with a royalty of five per cent of their value in cash or specie, according to the determination in each case made by the Department of Finance.

Art. V.—The Department of Finance shall notify the persons interested during the last fortnight of each two months whether they must pay in specie or in cash the royalty corresponding to the production of the two months ending within said fortnight.

Art. VI.—Taxes fixed by Article II shall be paid in the local offices of the Internal Stamp Revenue in whose jurisdiction are located the lands in question, and in case that said lands may belong to several jurisdictions, in the office the Department of Finance may designate, after previous consultation with the interested parties. This payment shall be made in advance and during the first fortnight of each two months.

Art. VII.—The royalties which must be paid in cash shall be entered in the offices mentioned in the previous article and on the same date stipulated therein, and at the expiration of the two months.

Art. VIII.—The payment of the amounts mentioned in Article II, III and IV shall be made by using special stamps which will read "Petroleum Taxes."

Art. IX.—The interested parties owing the tax established by this law shall present during the first fortnight of each two months a report in accordance with the blank which the Director-General of Internal Revenue may authorize, giving the rents, production and all the information necessary to calculate the taxes. These reports shall be made at the revenue offices mentioned in Article VI.

Art. X.—Transfers of contracts taxed by this law shall be reported at the same offices mentioned in Article VI within thirty days from their conclusion. Besides this obligation of both parties they shall also give immediate notice to the office of the Director-General of Revenue of the notaries attesting said transfers.

Art. XI.—All the amounts corresponding to royalties or their fractions which must be paid in specie shall be delivered at any of the storage stations belonging to the exploiter at the choice of the Department of Finance, which will designate the place of delivery and the form of payment.

Art. XII.—When royalties or fractions thereof must be paid in cash they shall be valued taking the fiscal value of the product at the point of shipment according to the tariff issued every two months by the Department of Finance, and deducting the cost of transportation by pipe line in relation to the distance from the producing field to the shipping point, and the average tariff for the public authorized by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor for oleoducts of the region under consideration. The Department of Taxes of the Department of Finance shall be obliged to advise in due time the local collectors of internal revenue in regard to the values above mentioned, in order that these officers may be able to verify the reports.

Art. XIII.—On petroleum lands for which no rent is being paid at the present time, there shall be paid five pesos a year per hectare, and for those not paying royalty at the present time five per cent of the products. The payment mentioned in this article shall be made under the same conditions established by law for other taxpayers.

Art. XIV.—Owners of lands who may wish to exploit on their own account the petroleum deposits from the subsoil and who have not entered into any petroleum contracts, as well as the last cessionary of the exploitation titles of the contracts mentioned in Article X of this law, shall make a report within three months following its promulgation, including a certified copy of the deed of sale, of lease, or of any other kind, to the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, which shall revise the reports and refuse those containing statements without foundation. After this period has elapsed there shall be declared vacant all petroleum deposits which have not been registered in the form prescribed in this article, governing their denunciation and exploitation by the rules which may be issued, which shall determine who are the persons owing the tax.

Art. XV.—Contracts referred to in this law shall be made in a public deed, and those entered into in private will be valid when owing to the unimportance of the transaction, they do not require the formality of a public deed, and that may be irrefutably proven that said contracts were entered into on the dates which they may indicate and with the clauses therein mentioned.

Art. XVI.—Royalties established by this law, royalty fractions mentioned in Article III, the tax upon rents established in Article II, and other rents established in this law, shall be paid at the local offices of Internal Revenue by the exploiters or last cessionaries of the exploitation rights, who at the time of making the payment to the intermediators or owners, shall deduct the part proportionally to the tax corresponding to them, in such a way that the rents and federal royalties may be distributed in the same proportion than the rents and royalties now established upon petroleum lands in the various existing contracts which may have as an object the right of the exploitation of petroleum.

Art. XVII.—The taxes which are not paid at the time established in this law shall suffer a surcharge of ten per cent for each month due.

Art. XVIII.—The product of this tax shall be distributed in the following manner:

Sixty per cent to the Federal Government; twenty per cent to the State Governments; and twenty per cent to the Municipal Governments, taking into consideration the location of the lands in question. When the lands are located in two or more municipalities or in two or more States, the Department of Finance shall distribute the tax, taking into consideration the area of the land included in each jurisdiction, the location of the wells and their productions and other necessary circumstances relating thereto.

Art. XIX.—Infractions of the precepts of this law shall be punished with fines varying from $50 to $1000 in accordance with the gravity of the offense, without prejudice to the consigning of the case to the judicial authorities in case of transgression.

Art. XX.—This law shall begin to take effect from the date of its enactment. Therefore I hereby order it to be printed, published, circulated and given due observance.

Given at the National Palace of the Executive Power in Mexico, on the 19th day of February, 1918.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

A. MADRAZO, Chief Official of the Department of Finance and Public Credit.

Proposed Petroleum Law

Projected Legislation to Be Submitted to the Industrial Congress and to the National Chamber of Deputies

(Concluded)

Article 124.—In the case of the lands "pro indiviso," referred to in Article 19, if any of the joint owners does not pay, after being required to do so, his share in the rent or in the other expenses derived from the obligations imposed upon by this concession, another joint owner may pay them. In doing so the latter will increase his share. In case that several of the joint owners may ask to pay for the dilatory joint owner, the joint owner shall be decided by lot, who will make the payment.

Article 125.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall visit, through its inspectors, the petroleum deposits and the installations attached therein, directly assigned to the petroleum works.

These visits shall have as an object:

I. To determine if the regulations and dispositions of exploitation are duly observed.

II. To obtain scientific and statistic data in regard to the petroleum industry.

III. To investigate if there are in existence or not attacks on free land or on another deposit, at the petition of a legitimate party.

Article 126.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall order in accordance with the report of the inspector or upon information of the local authorities, the suspension of the petroleum works which do not subject themselves to the regulations of exploitation. The effects of the order of suspension will last as long as the cause giving motive to this measure does not disappear.

Article 127.—In urgent and grave cases the suspension can be ordered at the request of the Governor of the State or of the Mayor, without fulfilling the requisites established in the previous Article.

Article 128.—In any case of suspension of works not well founded in the opinion of any official inspector of the Department of Industry and Commerce, the latter shall order an inspection at the earliest possible time.

Article 129.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall determine the number of the petroleum agencies and the jurisdiction of each one of them, taking into account the necessities for the discharge of their business. The same Department shall decide the doubts which may arise in regard to each jurisdiction.

Article 130.—When the concessionary of a petroleum deposit may satisfactorily prove before the Department of Industry and Commerce the loss of his original title, another one may be issued at his expense, in which shall be recorded the motive of the issuance and the cancellation of the original.

Article 131.—The titles of petroleum deposits which the Department of Industry and Commerce may issue shall be validated only with the signature of the Secretary of the same Department.

Article 132.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall issue the regulations and other dispositions having as an object to enforce the precepts of this law.

Transitory Articles

I. This law shall begin to take effect fifteen days after its promulgation.

II. The proprietors of superficial lands which have not made a rent contract or any other contract relating with the exploitation of hydrocarbures, shall enjoy the preferential right to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of his property during the term of six months, counting from the date of the enforcement of this law. The term for the community lands shall be counted from the date of the adjudication of the fractions.

III. The last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures based on contracts celebrated before February 5th, shall also enjoy the right of preference to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of their leased lands, during the same time of six months beginning from the time of enforcement of this law. In order to enjoy this franchise they shall prove that they are registered in the Petroleum Division of the Department of Industry and Commerce, and that they have paid in full the fixed share of inspection.

IV. If the last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures included in the prescriptions of the previous Article do not make use of the preferential right given them in said Article, they shall be considered as having abandoned it, and the right shall pass to the penultimate holders, applying the same rule successively until reaching the proprietors. In all cases there shall be observed the prescriptions of the previous Article, except the case of the proprietor, which will be included in Article II.

V. In the case of the lands referred to in the two previous Articles, there shall be considered those lands in two classes and divided as follows:

A. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right establishing an annual rent less than double that fixed for the hectare.

B. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right, establishing an annual rent equal or larger than the double of that fixed for the hectare

VI. In all cases the government of the nation shall collect the annual rent which may be fixed per hectare upon titled deposits. But as a gratuitous concession in the case of the lands referred to in the three previous Articles, the Government shall proceed as follows:

Lands of Class "A"

During the first year after the date of the denouncement, the proprietor and the intermediary contractors shall receive fifty per cent of the rent fixed in the last contract shown in order to distribute it among all in proportion, in accordance with their contracts; during the second year they shall receive forty per cent of the same rent; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent of said rent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In all cases the difference in the rent fixed and collected by the Government shall remain in their fvaor as well as in the fifth year, and thereafter the rent for a hectare shall remain totally in the possession of the government.

Lands of Class "B"

All lands included in this class shall be considered with an annual rent equal to double that fixed for a hectare, and the procedures shall be in the whole in accordance with the lands considered as Class "A."

VII. In the cases of land referred to in Articles III and IV there shall be considered only a participation or domain of fifty per cent on the production, and as a gratuitous concession of the government shall proceed in regard to this participation as follows:

During the first year after the date of the denouncement of the respective petroleum deposit, the proprietor of the land and the intermediate tenants shall receive fifty per cent of the participation referred to in order to distribute it proportionately among all, in accordance with their contracts; in the second year they shall receive forty per cent of said participation; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In each case the difference on the participation collected shall remain in favor of the government, and from the fifth year thereafter, the total of this participation shall remain exclusively in favor of the government.

VIII. All the lands referred to in Articles II and VII which may not have been denounced in the time of six months counting from the date of the enforcement of this law and which may be included within the limits of the States of Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan, Chiapas and the Territory of Quintana Roo, shall be considered as national reservations and subject for its exploitation to the contents of Article 24 of this law.

IX. Persons or companies which may have in force a contract celebrated with the Government of the Nation to explore or exploit petroleum lands, shall be considered as denouncers of the deposits which may be included in the lands they have as a concession, except that in the term of six months counting from the enforcement of this law, they may manifest their desire of renouncing or of reducing their petroleum claims, before the Department of Industry and Commerce. If they do not make this manifestation they shall remain immediately after subject in full to the requisites and conditions established by this law and its regulations.

X. In lands of an extension of less than four hectares on which there may now exist wells in perforation or in production protected by permits given previously, the denouncement of the deposit shall be admitted, without regard to the superficial area.

XI. Hereby are declared void and null all

New Law of Petroleum Lands

Taxes Upon Them and Upon Petroleum Contracts Executed Before May 1, 1917, for the Exploitation of Oil Deposits

THE statement having been widely published that the new decree regarding taxation of petroleum lands "cancels oil leases made since April 30, 1917," and that it is "virtually confiscatory," the complete text of the decree is given herewith:

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants—be it known:

That in use of the extraordinary powers conferred upon the Department of Hacienda by the Congress of the Union, it has been deemed advisable to issue the following decree:

Art. I.—There is hereby established a tax upon the petroleum lands and upon petroleum contracts which have been entered into prior to May 1, 1917, and which may have as an object the lease of lands for the exploitation of carburets of hydrogen or the permission to make this exploitation by means of onerous title.

Art. II.—The annual rents stipulated in the contracts mentioned in Article I, are hereby taxed in the following proportion:

(a) Those of five pesos annual rental per hectare or less, with ten per cent of the entire value of the rent.

(b) Those of over five pesos and less than ten pesos per hectare per annum, with ten per cent for the first five pesos and with twenty per cent for the remainder.

(c) Rents of over ten pesos annually per hectare, with ten per cent on the first five pesos, twenty per cent for the next five, and fifty per cent for all over the first ten pesos.

Art. III.—All royalties stipulated in petroleum contracts are hereby taxed with fifty per cent of their total in cash or in specie according to the determination of the Department of Finance.

Art. IV.—The deposits exploited by the owners of the superficial lands are hereby taxed with an annual rent of five pesos per hectare, besides with a royalty of five per cent of their value in cash or specie, according to the determination in each case made by the Department of Finance.

Art. V.—The Department of Finance shall notify the persons interested during the last fortnight of each two months whether they must pay in specie or in cash the royalty corresponding to the production of the two months ending within said fortnight.

Art. VI.—Taxes fixed by Article II shall be paid in the local offices of the Internal Stamp Revenue in whose jurisdiction are located the lands in question, and in case that said lands may belong to several jurisdictions, in the office the Department of Finance may designate, after previous consultation with the interested parties. This payment shall be made in advance and during the first fortnight of each two months.

Art. VII.—The royalties which must be paid in cash shall be entered in the offices mentioned in the previous article and on the same date stipulated therein, and at the expiration of the two months.

Art. VIII.—The payment of the amounts mentioned in Article II, III and IV shall be made by using special stamps which will read "Petroleum Taxes."

Art. IX.—The interested parties owing the tax established by this law shall present during the first fortnight of each two months a report in accordance with the blank which the Director-General of Internal Revenue may authorize, giving the rents, production and all the information necessary to calculate the taxes. These reports shall be made at the revenue offices mentioned in Article VI.

Art. X.—Transfers of contracts taxed by this law shall be reported at the same offices mentioned in Article VI within thirty days from their conclusion. Besides this obligation of both parties they shall also give immediate notice to the office of the Director-General of Revenue of the notaries attesting said transfers.

Art. XI.—All the amounts corresponding to royalties or their fractions which must be paid in specie shall be delivered at any of the storage stations belonging to the exploiter at the choice of the Department of Finance, which will designate the place of delivery and the form of payment.

Art. XII.—When royalties or fractions thereof must be paid in cash they shall be valued taking the fiscal value of the product at the point of shipment according to the tariff issued every two months by the Department of Finance, and deducting the cost of transportation by pipe line in relation to the distance from the producing field to the shipping point, and the average tariff for the public authorized by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor for oleoducts of the region under consideration. The Department of Taxes of the Department of Finance shall be obliged to advise in due time the local collectors of internal revenue in regard to the values above mentioned, in order that these officers may be able to verify the reports.

Art. XIII.—On petroleum lands for which no rent is being paid at the present time, there shall be paid five pesos a year per hectare, and for those not paying royalty at the present time five per cent of the products. The payment mentioned in this article shall be made under the same conditions established by law for other taxpayers.

Art. XIV.—Owners of lands who may wish to exploit on their own account the petroleum deposits from the subsoil and who have not entered into any petroleum contracts, as well as the last cessionary of the exploitation titles of the contracts mentioned in Article X of this law, shall make a report within three months following its promulgation, including a certified copy of the deed of sale, of lease, or of any other kind, to the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, which shall revise the reports and refuse those containing statements without foundation. After this period has elapsed there shall be declared vacant all petroleum deposits which have not been registered in the form prescribed in this article, governing their denunciation and exploitation by the rules which may be issued, which shall determine who are the persons owing the tax.

Art. XV.—Contracts referred to in this law shall be made in a public deed, and those entered into in private will be valid when owing to the unimportance of the transaction, they do not require the formality of a public deed, and that may be irrefutably proven that said contracts were entered into on the dates which they may indicate and with the clauses therein mentioned.

Art. XVI.—Royalties established by this law, royalty fractions mentioned in Article III, the tax upon rents established in Article II, and other rents established in this law, shall be paid at the local offices of Internal Revenue by the exploiters or last cessionaries of the exploitation rights, who at the time of making the payment to the intermediators or owners, shall deduct the part proportionally to the tax corresponding to them, in such a way that the rents and federal royalties may be distributed in the same proportion than the rents and royalties now established upon petroleum lands in the various existing contracts which may have as an object the right of the exploitation of petroleum.

Art. XVII.—The taxes which are not paid at the time established in this law shall suffer a surcharge of ten per cent for each month due.

Art. XVIII.—The product of this tax shall be distributed in the following manner:

Sixty per cent to the Federal Government; twenty per cent to the State Governments; and twenty per cent to the Municipal Governments, taking into consideration the location of the lands in question. When the lands are located in two or more municipalities or in two or more States, the Department of Finance shall distribute the tax, taking into consideration the area of the land included in each jurisdiction, the location of the wells and their productions and other necessary circumstances relating thereto.

Art. XIX.—Infractions of the precepts of this law shall be punished with fines varying from $50 to $1000 in accordance with the gravity of the offense, without prejudice to the consigning of the case to the judicial authorities in case of transgression.

Art. XX.—This law shall begin to take effect from the date of its enactment. Therefore I hereby order it to be printed, published, circulated and given due observance.

Given at the National Palace of the Executive Power in Mexico, on the 19th day of February, 1918.

(Signed) V. CARRANZA.

A. MADRAZO, Chief Official of the Department of Finance and Public Credit.

Proposed Petroleum Law

Projected Legislation to Be Submitted to the Industrial Congress and to the National Chamber of Deputies

(Concluded)

Article 124.—In the case of the lands "pro indiviso," referred to in Article 19, if any of the joint owners does not pay, after being required to do so, his share in the rent or in the other expenses derived from the obligations imposed upon by this concession, another joint owner may pay them. In doing so the latter will increase his share. In case that several of the joint owners may ask to pay for the dilatory joint owner, the joint owner shall be decided by lot, who will make the payment.

Article 125.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall visit, through its inspectors, the petroleum deposits and the installations attached therein, directly assigned to the petroleum works.

These visits shall have as an object:

I. To determine if the regulations and dispositions of exploitation are duly observed.

II. To obtain scientific and statistic data in regard to the petroleum industry.

III. To investigate if there are in existence or not attacks on free land or on another deposit, at the petition of a legitimate party.

Article 126.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall order in accordance with the report of the inspector or upon information of the local authorities, the suspension of the petroleum works which do not subject themselves to the regulations of exploitation. The effects of the order of suspension will last as long as the cause giving motive to this measure does not disappear.

Article 127.—In urgent and grave cases the suspension can be ordered at the request of the Governor of the State or of the Mayor, without fulfilling the requisites established in the previous Article.

Article 128.—In any case of suspension of works not well founded in the opinion of any official inspector of the Department of Industry and Commerce, the latter shall order an inspection at the earliest possible time.

Article 129.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall determine the number of the petroleum agencies and the jurisdiction of each one of them, taking into account the necessities for the discharge of their business. The same Department shall decide the doubts which may arise in regard to each jurisdiction.

Article 130.—When the concessionary of a petroleum deposit may satisfactorily prove before the Department of Industry and Commerce the loss of his original title, another one may be issued at his expense, in which shall be recorded the motive of the issuance and the cancellation of the original.

Article 131.—The titles of petroleum deposits which the Department of Industry and Commerce may issue shall be validated only with the signature of the Secretary of the same Department.

Article 132.—The Department of Industry and Commerce shall issue the regulations and other dispositions having as an object to enforce the precepts of this law.

Transitory Articles

I. This law shall begin to take effect fifteen days after its promulgation.

II. The proprietors of superficial lands which have not made a rent contract or any other contract relating with the exploitation of hydrocarbures, shall enjoy the preferential right to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of his property during the term of six months, counting from the date of the enforcement of this law. The term for the community lands shall be counted from the date of the adjudication of the fractions.

III. The last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures based on contracts celebrated before February 5th, shall also enjoy the right of preference to denounce petroleum deposits within the limits of their leased lands, during the same time of six months beginning from the time of enforcement of this law. In order to enjoy this franchise they shall prove that they are registered in the Petroleum Division of the Department of Industry and Commerce, and that they have paid in full the fixed share of inspection.

IV. If the last holders of the right of exploitation of the hydrocarbures included in the prescriptions of the previous Article do not make use of the preferential right given them in said Article, they shall be considered as having abandoned it, and the right shall pass to the penultimate holders, applying the same rule successively until reaching the proprietors. In all cases there shall be observed the prescriptions of the previous Article, except the case of the proprietor, which will be included in Article II.

V. In the case of the lands referred to in the two previous Articles, there shall be considered those lands in two classes and divided as follows:

A. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right establishing an annual rent less than double that fixed for the hectare.

B. Lands upon which the last contract is based for the performance of the preferential right, establishing an annual rent equal or larger than the double of that fixed for the hectare

VI. In all cases the government of the nation shall collect the annual rent which may be fixed per hectare upon titled deposits. But as a gratuitous concession in the case of the lands referred to in the three previous Articles, the Government shall proceed as follows:

Lands of Class "A"

During the first year after the date of tne denouncement, the proprietor and the intermediary contractors shall receive fifty per cent of the rent fixed in the last contract shown in order to distribute it among all in proportion, in accordance with their contracts; during the second year they shall receive forty per cent of the same rent; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent of said rent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In all cases the difference in the rent fixed and collected by the Government shall remain in their fvaor as well as in the fifth year, and thereafter the rent for a hectare shall remain totally in the possession of the government.

Lands of Class "B"

All lands included in this class shall be considered with an annual rent equal to double that fixed for a hectare, and the procedures shall be in the whole in accordance with the lands considered as Class "A."

VII. In the cases of land referred to in Articles III and IV there shall be considered only a participation or domain of fifty per cent on the production, and as a gratuitous concession of the government shall proceed in regard to this participation as follows:

During the first year after the date of the denouncement of the respective petroleum deposit, the proprietor of the land and the intermediate tenants shall receive fifty per cent of the participation referred to in order to distribute it proportionately among all, in accordance with their contracts; in the second year they shall receive forty per cent of said participation; in the third year they shall receive thirty per cent; in the fourth year twenty per cent, and in the fifth year ten per cent. In each case the difference on the participation collected shall remain in favor of the government, and from the fifth year thereafter, the total of this participation shall remain exclusively in favor of the government.

VIII. All the lands referred to in Articles II and VII which may not have been denounced in the time of six months counting from the date of the enforcement of this law and which may be included within the limits of the States of Tamaulipas, Vera Cruz, Tabasco, Campeche, Yucatan, Chiapas and the Territory of Quintana Roo, shall be considered as national reservations and subject for its exploitation to the contents of Article 24 of this law.

IX. Persons or companies which may have in force a contract celebrated with the Government of the Nation to explore or exploit petroleum lands, shall be considered as denouncers of the deposits which may be included in the lands they have as a concession, except that in the term of six months counting from the enforcement of this law, they may manifest their desire of renouncing or of reducing their petroleum claims, before the Department of Industry and Commerce. If they do not make this manifestation they shall remain immediately after subject in full to the requisites and conditions established by this law and its regulations.

X. In lands of an extension of less than four hectares on which there may now exist wells in perforation or in production protected by permits given previously, the denouncement of the deposit shall be admitted, without regard to the superficial area.

XI. Hereby are declared void and null all

laws and legal dispositions in opposition to this law.

Constitutional Provision Referred to in the Foregoing

Reference is made in the foregoing to the provisions of Article 27 of the new constitution. The section most frequently referred to has to do with the acquisition of properties by foreigners. It is as follows:

"Section 1.—Only Mexicans by birth or by naturalization, and Mexican associations, companies or incorporations, have the right to acquire ownership of the lands, waters and their accessories, or to obtain concessions for the exploitation of mines, waters or mineral combustibles in the Mexican Republic. The State can grant the same rights to foreigners under the condition that they must pledge themselves to the Ministry of Foreign Relations to the effect that they will consent to be considered as natives *in respect to said properties,* and that they will not ask by reason of being foreigners the protection of their governments *with respect to the same properties;* in case of their failure to comply with their agreement to forfeit the properties that they may have acquired by virtue of said pledge, the said properties will then revert to the benefit of the nation. For no reason whatever will foreigners be allowed to acquire direct control over lands and waters located in a belt one hundred kilometers wide along the frontiers, or in a belt of fifty kilometers wide along the shore lines."

Great Activity Around Tuxpam

REPORTS from Tampico declare that the petroleum region in that portion of the Republic, and more particularly around Tuxpam, the most important producing and exporting point next to Tampico, is entering upon a most prosperous period and promises to become one of the most flourishing portions of the country. Several of the large petroleum companies which have extensive properties in that region are preparing to carry out extensive boring operations for new wells, and also the construction of pipe lines for conveying the oil to the point of debarkation. Several hundred working men recently arrived at Tuxpam from the interior and more are expected shortly. They will all be employed upon the new work that is being undertaken and will be carried out now that the petroleum region is for the most part under permanent Government control.

An extensive American concern, the Central Oil Development and Transportation Company, with six million dollars capital, has recently commenced operations in the Tampico district, and has consolidated a number of smaller concerns which were hampered by lack of capital and other facilities. This is welcomed as an evidence of the faith of capitalists in the security of the district.

Recently published statements regarding conditions in the Tampico oil region and the alleged intention of the United States to interfere, have been positively denied by the American State Department as without foundation.

Oil Land Rentals and The Bank Reserve

AT a recent Cabinet meeting consideration was given to a project to regulate the rentals of petroliferous lands according to their actual value instead of at a flat rate. It was conceded that lands upon which petroleum had actually been discovered were of greater value than those where it was only supposed to exist but its presence had not been demonstrated. Therefore the latter class should not be called upon to pay in the same ratio as the former. It is proposed to embody this idea in the legislation that is to be enacted at the next session of Congress concerning such matters.

The question was also discussed of devoting the proceeds from certain forms of taxation entirely to the establishment of the sole bank of emission authorized by Congress. It has been arranged that a large amount of money paid over to the Government through the settlement of the Tehuantepec Railway concessions heretofore held by the Piersons should be devoted entirely to increase of the reserve of the "Banco de la Republica Mexicana," which will open for business on April 1st. The amount so utilized will, it is stated, aggregate some fifteen millions of pesos.

GEORGE WILSON
Mines, Oil Lands
Correspondence Solicited
P. O. Box 1677 **Mexico, D. F.**

THE SPANISH-AMERICAN DIRECTORY AND BUYERS' GUIDE
IN THE UNITED STATES
In Spanish, Portuguese, English and French

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Export Taxes on Rubber And on Metals

ON the 29th of January a decree reducing the export taxes on rubber and on metals was promulgated, to take effect on the 1st of February and to remain in force during the period of suspension of free interchange of products:

Guayule (rubber plant) in the herb, including other forms of rubber-producing plants not specified, 3 per cent ad valorem upon the rubber contents.

Rubber and the gum guayule, 2 per cent ad valorem.

Graphite, uncrystallized or refined, 1.30 per cent of the value of the metal.

Other metals—3 per cent of the value of the metal.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

Fernando Gonzalez Roa
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ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW
Mexico, D. F.
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To Manufacturers, Exporters and Importers in the United States

Americans living abroad introduce American goods, create a demand and make a market. They develop the native products and ship to their country. They build railroads, open mines, utilize water powers, develop oil fields, make plantations, establish factories and construct public works. They are advance agents for foreign business and they get it. They are trade missionaries, always at work. They have the spirit of the pioneers who made the great West. They should have the heartiest support and co-operation of their government and people at home.

The American residents of Mexico City on November 8, 1917, incorporated the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico to promote international trade, and furnish a reliable channel of communication. They are trying to meet German activities here. They are preparing for future expansion. Every manufacturer, exporter and importer in the United States should become a member of this Chamber, in self interest and common interest. It makes for restoration of peace and development of trade in this naturally rich country.

Write for information.

American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico, S. C. L.
Apartado 82 Bis, Mexico City, Mexico

January 1, 1918.

The Mexican Review

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Educational Progress in Sonora

FROM the reports filed by Provisional Governor de la Huerta, of the State of Sonora, when he turned over his office to Governor Calles, it is learned that educational affairs received much attention during his administration. Some comparative figures are of interest. Thus, in 1907 there were 178 schools in the State, while now there are 341. In 1907 there were 10,804 pupils in attendance at the public schools, while now there are 24,187. From 342 teachers in 1907, the number has increased to 875. In 1907 the total amount expended upon schools for the year was $247,954. In 1912, $593,785 was expended upon educational matters, while in 1917 the total was $1,483,336.40. There has been a large addition to the number of schoolhouses, while industrial and technical night and day schools have also been established and a compulsory educational decree is also in force.

Under the auspices of General Calles, Governor of the State of Sonora, a school for the orphans of those who lost their lives in the Revolution has been opened at Hermosillo, the State capital. A large number of applications for admission were presented in advance of the opening of the institution.

Concessions Forfeited for Failure to Comply

A SPECIAL commission was some time ago appointed to examine into concessions that have been held by the Bank of London and Mexico for several years, covering an area of 1,487,200 acres in the Territory of Quintana Roo and 154 000 acres in the State of Yucatan. These lands were granted on the condition that they should be colonized. Investigation has shown that this was never complied with, but that the exploitation of the chicle and other products was the only use made. Because of such failure, the lands have been forfeited to the National Government, and will now be allotted wherever possible to those who are desirous to cultivate them.

Large Increase in Customs Collections

THE Director General of the Department of Customs reports that for the eight months commencing May 1st and ending December 31, 1917, the total customs collections, both import and export dues, were $31,958,585.64. The total expense of collection was $1,408,834.

At the same average ratio for the remaining four months of the year, the total collections would amount to $46,937,876.96. The collections show a large increase over those of previous years. For example, the total collected for import and export duties in the year 1911-12 was $42,686,356, or considerably less than the total for the year just ended. These figures are justly regarded as an encouraging indication of the rapidly improving financial condition of the country.

Invitations for an Anti-Alcoholic Congress

THE Legislature of the State of Yucatan has sent invitations to all the States in the Republic to attend a congress for the purpose of discussing and adopting laws looking toward the total prohibition of the sale of alcoholic and intoxicating beverages throughout the entire country. A special commission appointed by the Yucatan Legislature to promote the movement reports that since the adoption of prohibition in that State the condition of the people has been immeasurably improved and it is strenuously recommended that the movement be made general. The prohibition does not apply to light wines and beer of low alcoholic strength.

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Strict Neutrality Should Be Maintained

MINISTER CANDIDO AGUILAR, of the Department of Foreign Relations, recently accorded the representatives of the press an interview, in which he denied with emphasis certain disquieting rumors that had been circulated regarding the diplomatic relations of Mexico with the other countries, both belligerents and neutrals. The Minister expressed himself as follows:

"Diplomatic relations with the United States continue friendly, as well as with all the other countries with which Mexico has maintained them for a long time. It is true that in certain locations, and as a natural consequence of the world war, there have occurred incidents not only between Mexico and the United States, but also with others of the belligerent countries. But these cases are similar to those registered between the same countries and the neutral countries, and on our part we are doing everything feasible to solve them in the best manner possible.

"The Mexican Government on its part continues firm in its desire to preserve its neutrality until the termination of the present conflict, because it is firmly believed that this international policy is the best for the interests of the country.

"It is absolutely anti-patriotic to engage in any demonstration of an international character which it may be proposed to carry out at this present time, not for the significance of the persons against whom they may be inaugurated, but because they do not have any practical purpose whatever, and on the other hand may give cause for disagreeable incidents which no doubt would hamper the activities of this Government. On the other hand, the newspapers, decidedly pro-Ally or pro-German, which lately have distinguished themselves for their intemperance of language in treating international questions, would greatly and patriotically help the Government and at the same time would facilitate the solution of the great problems which the administration is now facing, if they would only modify their insulting attacks, and above all abstain themselves from mutually making discourteous remarks about the governments and diplomatic representatives accredited before our Government from the belligerent countries."

The Mexican Red Cross Society has secured contributions of large quantities of tobacco and cigarettes, which are being shipped to Europe for distribution among the Allied troops.

"Direct Domain" Defined

Interesting Letter From Hon. Pastor Rouaix, Secretary of Agriculture and Promotion

CITY OF MEXICO, *March* 13, 1918.

MESSRS. JOSE VASQUEZ SCHIAFFINO, JOAQUIN SANTAELLA and A. LANGARICA, *Engineers, City of Mexico:*

Very Esteemed Gentlemen and Friends:

I have had the pleasure of receiving your letter of the 4th inst., regarding the correct and legal definition that should be given to the term "direct domain" used by the framers of the Constitution in Article 27 of our present Fundamental Charter. I now have the pleasure of answering, one by one, the questions that you ask me in your letter.

At the outset I ought to state that I believe myself sufficiently qualified to reply to the inquiries in your above-mentioned letter, because, as must be known to you, I had the satisfaction in the Constitutional Convention to be the initiator of the proposed Article 27, having made the preliminary study of it in company with Messrs. José I. Lugo, José N. Macias and Andrés Molina Enriquez, all lawyers, the draft of which was presented for the consideration of a group of delegates especially interested in the study of the so-called Agrarian question. We, the authors of the project, took notes during the discussions that were held in my lodgings, and in this manner modifications as proposed and approved in the meetings of that group were made, until the plan was completed in the form of a draft to which those who had attended the meetings subscribed.

Subsequently, when referred to the committee charged with the decision of the matter, I also had the satisfaction of discussing with General Francisco J. Múgica, Attorney Enrique Colunga, Dr. Alberto Roman, Luis G. Monzón and Attorney Enrique Recio, members of the committee, the amendments suggested by that body.

Therefore I believe that the opinion which I now give can be taken as the reflection of the judgment and spirit that animated the group of delegates who drafted the proposal, and I believe that I interpret the idea that guided the committees in writing the final draft which was approved by the Convention with slight changes.

I will now answer the questions that you ask:

"First.—Did the Committee over which you presided, which submitted the proposal for Article 27 of the Constitution to the Convention at Querétaro, understand that the term 'direct domain' was equivalent to 'proprietorship,' or did it make any distinction between them?

"Second.—In case the terms 'direct domain' and 'proprietorship' do not possess the same ideological significance, will you please tell us the difference."

The fundamental idea of Article 27 was to establish the principle that the lands, waters and their natural products belonged to the nation, which has had the right to grant the ownership of them to individuals in order to constitute private property. From this are derived two fundamental principles: The nation possesses original, absolute and complete proprietorship over all its territory and the products thereof. Private property is the grant which the nation makes only of its right of domain over lands and waters in favor of some person, but without thereby losing the prerogatives due it as proprietor. This principle is established in the first part of Article 27, which says:

"The proprietorship of the lands and waters embraced within the limits of the national territory belongs originally to the nation, which has had and has the right to transfer the ownership in them to individuals, constituting private property."

Secretary Pastor Rouaix

And this is made complete by specifications of the rights that continue to belong to the proprietary nation, in providing "that the nation shall at all times have the right to impose upon private property the restrictions that may be dictated by the public interest, such as that of regulating the utilization of natural elements susceptible of appropriation in order to make an equitable distribution of the public wealth and to care for its conservation."

The foregoing furnishes the answers to the first and second questions in your letter and clearly defines what the Constitutional Convention understood by proprietorship, and which it denominated *domain*, whether direct, as a use, or in any other form.

"Third.—In declaring that the nation possesses 'direct domain' over solid mineral combustibles, petroleum and all solid, liquid or gaseous carbides of hydrogen, was it or not the intention of the framers of the Constitution to reassert in favor of the nation the *proprietorship* which the latter always had over those substances?"

In treating of the products of the subsoil, the Constitutional Convention desired that the rights of the nation should be still more clearly fixed, and therefore it used the words "direct domain," thus clearly stating that the nation not only possessed original proprietorship in this class of wealth absolutely, but also that it possesses the private property therein. This is clearly expressed in the paragraphs which I transcribe below and in which it is seen that the dominion of the nation—that is to say, the *full proprietorship* which it possesses over those products—is inalienable and imprescriptible, and only by means of concessions and under certain conditions can it grant the use of those resources to individuals. The Constitution says:

"The nation possesses direct domain over all minerals or substances found in veins, layers, masses, or ledges, constituting deposits whose nature is distinct from the components of the soil, such as minerals from which are extracted metals and metaloids used in the industries, deposits of precious stones, etc.; *solid mineral combustibles, petroleum and all solid, liquid or gaseous carbides of hydrogen.*"

"The waters of the territorial seas are also the property of the nation."

"In the cases to which the two foregoing paragraphs refer the proprietorship of the nation is inalienable and imprescriptible, and concessions can only be made by the Federal Government to individuals, civil or commercial societies constituted in accordance with Mexican laws, with the condition that regular work be established for the development of the elements treated of, and the requirements complied with as provided by law."

"Fourth.—Was it or not the intention of the framers of the Constitution to compare the 'direct domain' over mineral combustibles, petroleum and solid, liquid or gaseous carbides of hydrogen, to the 'direct domain' which the nation has always had over the rest of the minerals enunciated in Article 1, of the mining law now in force?"

Yes, that was the intention of the members of the Convention. In including petroleum among minerals, without making any distinction between them, it is clear that it is placed in the same class and under the same conditions, in respect to ownership by the nation, as other minerals.

"Fifth.—Was it the understanding of the Committee that formulated the draft of Article 27 of the Constitution that, in declaring that to the nation belongs the 'direct domain' over all solid mineral combustibles, petroleum and the other carbides of hydrogen, in whatsoever physical state, Article 2 of the present mining law was repealed?"

Undoubtedly. The Constitution being the supreme and fundamental law, its simple publication repealed the laws inconsistent therewith, even when its effects upon the thing affected can be retarded until laws regulating the matter can be passed; but the principle opposed thereto is at once destroyed.

"Sixth.—Was the motive of the Committee, so worthily presided over by you, in presenting the draft of Article 27 of the Constitution to the Convention at Querétaro, to continue, or not, conserving the possible rights that individuals may believe they have in the petroleum and other hydro-carbides that might exist in the subsoil of their lands?"

As I said before, the effects that may result from the repeal of the law may be retarded until the law regulating the same is passed; and hence, in the case of petroleum, the former owners of the surface right, at the date of the proclamation of the Constitution, can retain possession until the passage of laws defining the form in which it shall be enforced, and that has occurred up to the present time, as the Federal Government has not attempted to alter the use of those products in the manner formerly employed; but from the moment in which the Constitution was promulgated, the legal ownership of petroleum and other hydro-carbides was reassumed by the nation.

"Seventh.—Did the reassertion by the Constitution of the rights of the nation over solid mineral combustibles, over petroleum and over the other solid, liquid or gaseous carbides of hydrogen have a retroactive effect?"

This question—that is, the argument over the retroactivity of the Constitution—has been made a subject of fencing by all the enemies of the Revolution, who have displayed more or less talent, but always through sophistries.

As is known, the sovereign rights, from a judicial point of view, possessed by the nation over the territory and its products, are based upon the rights of the Spanish Crown over the territory of New Spain, that have been abrogated. The Spanish monarch was invested with proprietary rights in the lands, waters, minerals and substances of the earth, and therefore was the sole person who was authorized to grant the usufruct of the wealth and property in the lands to his vassals. This is the fundamental principle of national proprietorship. Upon the successful consummation of our Independence, the rights of the Spanish Crown over the territory of the country, as well as the charge of the same, passed into the possession of the nation, as the successor of the Royal Spanish Crown, and consequently the nation is the entity which has continued owning the lands that have not been granted and giving mineral concessions in the absence of denouncements. Thus, the principle of proprietorship is rooted, originally and primarily, in the kings of Spain, and afterward, in the nation.

Now, referring exclusively to the question of petroleum, it is sufficient to cite the paragraphs that I reproduce below to justify the rights of the nation over those combustibles.

The Royal Mining Ordinances of 1783, in Article 1 of Title V, say:

"The mines belong to my Royal Crown, as much on account of their nature and origin, as well as being attached thereto by the provisions of Law IV, Title 13, Vol. VI of the new Recopilation."

And Art. 2 of the same Title says:

"*Without separating them from my royal patrimony*, I concede them to my vassals in property and possession, in such manner that they sell, permute, rent, donate, dispose of them in testament by heirship or will or in any other manner alienate the right therein that may belong to them, in the same terms on which they possess them, and in persons qualified to acquire them."

This principle leaves no room for doubt as to the intention of the King of Spain to concede only the ownership *in use of mines*, and it is clearly expressed in the words at the beginning of that Article, and that say: "*Without separating them from my royal patrimony.*"

Among the substances included in the general term mines and that may be denounced, are the carbides of hydrogen, called in that epoch *bitumens*, as may be seen in the following paragraph of the same Ordinances, taken from Art. 22 of Title VI:

"I also concede that mines may be discovered, applied for, registered and denounced, not only of gold and silver, but also of precious stones, copper, lead, tin, quicksilver, antimony, zinc, bismuth, rock salt and any other fossils, whether perfect or part metallic, *bitumens* or the products of the earth, under such provisions for their possession, development and labor as may be necessary."

This was what afterward formed the unassailable right of the nation over those resources, which cannot be legally destroyed by a simple law, because in this case, as well as in that of lands and waters, it treats of rights that are fundamental in the constitution of nationality, and that form the basis upon which were established the succeeding rights of the Mexican governments. Therefore, there is no retroactivity found in Article 27, as the only thing it fixes is to recover and reconstitute the fundamental properties of the nation, which, without any right whatsoever, one of its Governors attempted to cede to individuals.

There would exist retroactivity in case that those who improperly were exploiting the natural products of the subsoil had been required to make indemnity for all the usufruct they had enjoyed previous to the promulgation of our Magna Charta, a thing that was not done, only that its provisions tend to reassert for the nation that which belonged to it.

With the hope that your questions have been answered, I am very truly yours,

PASTOR ROUAIX.

Exports from New Orleans to Mexican Ports

Numerous and Varied Items Shipped to Southern Republic

DURING the month of March the exports from New Orleans to various ports in Mexico were as follows:

	Lbs.	Value
Vera Cruz	1,363,390	$180,330.94
Tampico	3,088,006	213,018.06
Progreso	9,189,264	440,206.82
Frontera	299,552	31,515.99
Cotzacoalcos	1,355,529	24,681.81
Manzanillo	1,089	935.81
Total	15,296,920	$890,689.96

The list included groceries, electrical apparatus and accessories, automobiles and accessories, shoes, coal, cereals, rice, cement, drugs and medicines, fruits and vegetables, hardware, forage, thread and manufactures of cotton, agricultural implements, soap, milk and its products, cheese, manufactures of wood, machinery, paper, envelopes, etc., alimentary pastes, manufactured clothing, glassware of various kinds, etc.

Hydrologic and Mineral Survey of the Republic

An Important Work Promising Valuable Results in Development

THE Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Labor, through the National Geologic Institute, is proceeding with the accurate hydrologic and mineral mapping of the Mexican Republic. For the National Hydrographic Survey there has been commenced a study of the Mexican lakes and lagoons, for which geological commissions have gone out to various parts of the Republic. Likewise another commission subsidiary to the said Geological Institute has commenced to make a detailed economical-geological digest of the Valley of Mexico. During this study there have been found quarries and beds of rotten stone and some construction material such as afford indications of underground water circulation.

Upon the study of hydrology in the Republic there will follow great advances in agriculture, since it includes the distribution of national benefits, the location of springs for irrigation in whatsoever form and choice of places, according to the special configuration of the territory. Likewise arrangements are made for similar surveys in the petroleum districts which will be of great interest.

There have been received, to increase the extensive collections already existing in the Geological Institute, countless samples of ores representing every State in the Federation, except Tabasco and Yucatan, from which no sample has yet been received. Within a few months these important statistical works will be completed, so as to contribute greatly to the agricultural and mineral betterment of the Mexican Republic.

Export Taxes on Metals and Minerals

Secretary of the Treasury Issues Rates of Taxation

ON April 1st, the Secretary of the Treasury issued the following rates of taxation upon exportations of metals and minerals (the figures here given being in American gold per pound weight of material):

Gold—$21.47½ per pound.

Silver in bars or ingots—63¾ cents.

Silver in mineral or concentrates—89½ cents.

Copper in bars or ingots—1.19 cents.

Copper in minerals or concentrates—1.42 cents.

Lead in bars or ingots—.00155 of a cent.

Lead in minerals or concentrates—.002139 of one cent.

Zinc in bars or ingots—.005589 of one cent.

Zinc in minerals or concentrates—.007454 of one cent.

Tin in bars or ingots—2.585 cents.

Tin in minerals or concentrates—2.703 cents.

Antimony, in bars or ingots—.001343 of one cent.

Tungsten, in minerals or concentrates—4.33 cents.

Manganese (metallic)—.001863 of one cent.

Mercury—4.784 cents.

Mexican Women as They Are

Some Popular Misconceptions Regarding Them—What They Really Are in Home and in Relation to Education

BY IRENE KRANZTHOR SCHUTZ

FOR a long time there has existed a traditional conception of the Mexican woman as a figure that lent itself admirably for thrilling romance, whether the romance occurred in a novel, on the stage, or in moving pictures. The public has been fairly well acquainted with the señorita of the novel, especially the novel of the older type. She is a bewitching, exotic beauty, usually the daughter of a hacendado; she speaks little English, but manages to introduce a few words of it into the Spanish conversation she carries on with her American adorer, or adorer of some other nationality, who, for his part, often succeeds in making himself well understood in spite of his broken Spanish. Many parts in a tale of this kind are doubtless true to life, but not always can as much be said of the plot, which almost invariably seethes more than necessary with native and foreign rivals for the señorita's favor, and with love, hate, intrigue, defeat and triumph — usually triumph for the foreign lover. Another favored plot contains a señorita possessing a sinister kind of beauty and an intriguing character, who has fallen in love with the foreign hero of the novel; but the hero loves a girl of his own nationality—in spite of some attentions he might have paid the señorita just after he arrived in Mexico. The result is that the disappointed señorita—or señora, as the case might be—tries to take dire revenge on her victorious rival, but of course fails in the attempt. Similar plots are utilized on the stage and in moving pictures, though it must be admitted that many representatives of Mexican women there as well as in literature are gradually becoming more true to the reality.

Group of Mexican Young Ladies

The Mexican woman of the lower classes often forms one of the central figures around which the plot moves. This figure is frequently natural in several respects, but people who know the peon women through actual experience know also that while she stands in need of general improvement, she is not inclined to take cruel revenge on a sister woman even for a good reason. Neither does she sneak around with fierce stealthiness, inciting her masculine friends to commit misdeeds. On the contrary, Mexican women of the people are of a gentle and affectionate disposition and a courteous behavior; while it is true that some of them have joined the fighting ranks in the wars of their country, proportionately they form the exceptions and not the rule, and when their fighting is done, many of these amazons are probably almost as gentle as their sisters who stayed at home. For these women fought in battle as soldiers, and not as sneaks bent on private revenge. Hate and treachery will often appear in Mexican fighting—or any other fighting, for that matter—but not all Mexicans are always fighting or wrangling, especially not the women, and even hate, treachery and revenge will sometimes yield to softer emotions, unless the individuals in question are criminals.

But if Mexicans of either sex are depicted as criminals so often as to make the representations of Mexican criminals beyond all true proportion to representations of good Mexicans, then these evil doers might just as well be depicted as criminals pure and simple, and not as characters supposed to typify the majority of Mexicans. For crime, as we know, exists in all nationalities, and there are many countries considering themselves far above Mexico in civilization, but which nevertheless harbor an amount of crime more out of proportion to the good they contain than the Mexico which is maligned so frequently. In connection with this subject, we cannot help but remark on the fantastic representations of the personal appearance of the supposedly typical Mexican girl, according to which she dresses very much like a cross between a Spanish gypsy and a Spanish peasant in stage costume.

In reality, Mexican women of the lower middle and the poor classes, even in the far interior of Mexico, wear a plain waist and skirt or a whole dress fairly well cut and that is of conventional design even if not copied from late models. True, their holiday garments are often gaudily colored, profusely flounced, and adorned with cheap lace and ribbon. Although these gowns do not always conform to the most cultivated taste, as a rule they continue to follow the usual lines more or less, and are not unattractive, and the well-known, gracefully draped shawl adds to the picturesqueness of the toilette. We are not at present referring to the Mexican Indian woman, whose dress resembles somewhat that of the American Indian. But the variations of Indian dress are very noticeable, almost each different portion of Mexico having its own national style. People who live on the Mexican border, or not very far from it, are not misled by imaginary representations of Mexican scenes and Mexican women. Unless one has traveled extensively through all of Mexico, it is difficult to get a good idea of the various types in their original state, for, due to the foreign influences near them on the border, these national types undergo a perceptible modification as far as their individual originality is concerned.

Unfaithful representations of Mexican scenes—including Mexican women—should be done away with both in literature and on the stage; they should be done away with in spite of the popular Northern taste for unnaturally picturesque and malevolently romantic Mexican scenes. Surely there is still sufficient romance left in Mexico and in the regions not far from it to satisfy even a public brought up to believe in the traditional stage pictures of Mexico.

In order to understand better Mexican womanhood, its former and present education and attainments, and its further needs, as they actually exist, it is necessary to give a few more illustrative examples in various phases of incorrect representations of Mexican women, and compare them with the reality. To continue, in respect to stage and moving-picture representations, one of the most interesting, and, in many respects, life-like pictures, is that of the great hacendado, his family and his surroundings. The señora, his wife, appears as a comely woman of proud bearing, but she is not very much in evidence as one of the central figures in the actions taking place around her; she is on the scene only to welcome some special visitors, and prefers to hover over her daughter rather than join in the general conversation, especially if several men are in the company. The señora lingers a little longer while refreshments are being served, then retires to her own favorite patio hidden somewhere in her beautiful hacienda home, where attendants and vassals galore await her commands. If the daughter is allowed to be present during the visit of men, she does not fail to follow her mother dutifully into her private apartments.

So far so good, for such is really the appearance of a wealthy hacendado's family, and such is their manner of life, especially in the Mexico of former days; today the real, living picture has been noticeably modernized. But the plot in the above agreeable representation leaves much to be desired as far as truth to reality is concerned—that is, if the picture is presented as being instructive as well as entertaining. There are too many native and foreign rivals on the scene, and the villainy of some among the former is made much more obvious and exaggerated than is actually the case even among the most jealous rivals belonging to the polite society which surrounds the señorita of high social standing. In fact, the plot remains the usual thing, overflowing once more with a superabundance of love, hate, defeat and triumph. Some realism is often introduced by fighting scenes taking place during the Mexican revolutions.

The picture of the too secluded and retiring señora and señorita is not entirely true to life in these days of a modernized Mexico, for during late years women there have been gradually emerging from the seclusion to which they formerly confined themselves. There is still a good number of women who continue to adhere to a certain extent to the habits which were thought most suitable for women of the Mexico of past days, but a great number of progressing women are waking to the fact that along with the reorganization of Mexico, they must also endeavor to change the rather too severe Mexican point of view in regard to women in general. Be it said to the credit of Mexican men, that while some among them are still adverse to greater liberty for women than is compatible with the ideas to which they had been accustomed through historical tradition, many Mexicans are proud of the new stand women are taking and are extending them effectual aid in their endeavors. Not that the Mexican woman of old lacked charm, intelligence and accomplishments, of which she always possessed good measure; besides, the woman of high social standing was formerly more aristocratic—perhaps too aristocratic—in her attitude than the Mexican society woman of today. But all kinds of Mexican women lacked the "snap" which most women of the new Mexico have acquired, and with the impetus which their advancement is receiving, the question has arisen of a higher and at the same time more practical education for them. Their former education gave them little more than the frills and furbelows of knowledge; a smattering of literature and French, and a set of ornate manners well suited to a society which required nothing more of them. Not that the women thus educated lacked the essentials of life, or that they were poor housekeepers, for Mexican women have always devoted themselves to their homes, and will always remain good wives and mothers along with their progress in the great movement for the advancement of their sex.

Wife of General Obregon

A Sonora Senorita

But Mexican women, under any form of education, have always been excellent musicians and very often singers possessing voices of extraordinary sweetness. Nevertheless, with all these good qualities and attainments, they lacked the solid foundation for a systematic and more useful education, and fortunately they are beginning to get it right in their own country, where even admission to the National University in the City of Mexico has been accorded them.

One of the strongest forces underlying the forward movement of Mexican womanhood is the "Gran Confederacion Feminil Mexicana" (Great Mexican Feminine Confederation), established June 20, 1916, after a reunion in the City of Mexico of more than a thousand women representing Mexican intellectuality and spirit of progressiveness, the majority of whom consisted of school directors, teachers and the alumnae of the best schools. At the head of this association, assisted by her able staff, is Miss Maria Arias Bernal, director of the normal school for teachers. One of the first acts of this society was to direct a memorial to President Carranza, in which were explained the aims and the work of this feminine confederation, which consists of a higher, more practical education for the women of Mexico, including hygiene, first aid to the wounded in war, and the preparation and conservation of food, as well as the making of clothing. The members of this confederation evinced their patriotism by asking permission of their Government to visit munition factories with the object of familiarizing themselves with the implements of war, in order to substitute the operators in case of necessity. They also requested the work of sewing the National army uniforms in order to save the Government expense. The confederation has appealed to all feminine associations, irrespective of their aims and tendencies, political or religious beliefs, to work together without losing their feminine character, for the common good of women—and men—and their respective countries. Many eminent men, newspapers and reviews assisted heartily in the propaganda of the Great Mexican Feminine Confederation.

As early as 1883 a good number of prominent and progressive Mexicans and Mexican newspapers and reviews had initiated a campaign against many of the antiquated educational methods in use among instructors of the old class, who asserted that the classic system copied by them from the great foreign institutions of learning was also fitted in every respect to the needs of the Mexican people; but the learned professors probably forgot that a part of the people had been buried in poverty and ignorance so long that other methods than classic were needed to raise the masses from their ignorance. Or perhaps those pedantic educators did not give a thought to educate any classes excepting the better classes of their people. As an education Caesarism prevailed everywhere in Mexico at the time; nobody dared oppose the above theory of education. Since the population of Mexico consists not only of Mexicans, but also of Indians, Indo-Latins and Creoles, it is necessary to use the methods especially adapted to them in order to bring out their latent ambition, character and intelligence.

(Concluded next month)

Latest Petroleum News

Total Production of the Republic for 1917—Rates of Taxation on Exports—Companies Must Make Prompt Reports

THE Technical Commission of the Department of Petroleum under the Secretary of Industry and Commerce has collected the most recent statistics regarding the production of petroleum in the Republic, and which are of great interest.

During the year 1917 a total of 79 wells were bored in the oil regions of Tamaulipas, San Luis Potosi, Panuco, Topila, Ozualama, Tuxpam and Ichuatlan, of which forty-three are producing. The potential production of these wells is 235,250 barrels daily.

With the opening of these new wells, the total in the entire Republic reached 919, of which 329 are productive, 362 unproductive, 141 are in process of sinking and 77 have been localized.

The potential production of these wells is 1,337,012 barrels daily. In 1901 Mexico produced 10,345 barrels of crude oil annually. In 1910 the production had arisen to 3,634,080 barrels, while in 1917 the total production was the enormous quantity of 55,292,770 barrels.

The Tuxpam region leads in the amount produced, the total for the year having been 34,500,000 barrels. Tampico produced 20,500,000 barrels and Minititlan yielded 23,500,000 barrels.

The companies established in Mexico and which produced the largest amount of petroleum during the past year were, first, the Huasteca Petroleum Company, which extracted from its wells more than 16,000,000 of barrels; the Aguila Company, which produced nearly a like amount.

During the year 1917 the exportations of oil reached 6,500,000 metric tons of petroleum, while the value of the crude and refined products amounted to over $53,000,000 Mexican gold, a notable increase over the figures for 1916.

Prompt Reports Required From All Petroleum Companies

In order to carry out the provisions of the decree relative to the collection of taxes on petroleum lands and leases, which went into effect on the 19th of February, notice has been given by the Secretary of Commerce and Industry that all companies and persons interested in such matters must present in triplicate at once complete reports covering the following data: Name of the company or person; residence—city, street, and number; Board of Directors in existence; representative or person holding power of attorney before the Department of Industry and Commerce; locality designated by name, number of lot, hacienda, municipality, canton, district and State; date of the acquisition; its area, name of the seller; price of purchase; map or description of the boundaries, giving the names of the adjacent lands and their proprietors; location, name, number of lot, etc., with the name of the owner of the land and the date when the contractor lease was executed; duration of the contract; rent, royalty and other terms of the contract.

All companies or persons who are the actual explorers or the ultimate concessionaires of the right to exploit the subsoil of the lands contracted for, and who do not present their statements as above and according to the law noted, will not be permitted to engage in any class of work and will be obliged to suspend any operations in progress on the lands in question, without prejudice to the penalties authorized by the law in such cases.

Petroleum Taxation For March and April

Announcement was recently made of the rate of taxation upon petroleum that would be enforced during the months of March and April, the custom being to fix the rate for periods of two months at a time. The valuations and rates are as follows:

Combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, valuation $10.50 per ton.

Crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, valuation $13.50 per ton.

Petroleum of a density greater than 0.97, valuation $5.50 per ton.

Gas oil, valuation $10.50 per ton.

Gasoline (refined), in bulk or packed, 12½ centavos per liter.

Gasoline (crude), in bulk or packed, 11¾ centavos per liter.

Kerosene, crude or refined, in bulk or packed, 3 centavos per liter.

The valuations of crude and combustible petroleum will be increased or diminished in accordance with the degree of density.

The foregoing figures are in Mexican gold, and the rate of taxation is ten per cent upon the valuations given. Reduced to American gold and the tax on combustible petroleum is found to be 52¼ cents per ton, or in the neighborhood of 7½ cents per barrel.

On crude petroleum the tax is 67½ cents per ton, or about 9½ cents per barrel.

On petroleum of the greatest density the tax is 27½ cents per ton, or a trifle less than four cents per barrel.

Gas oil pays the same tax as combustible petroleum, or about 7½ cents per barrel.

Petroleum in Lower California

A petition has been presented to the Secretary of Industry and Commerce for permission to exploit the deposits of petroleum said to exist around the Bay of Ensenada, in the Territory of Lower California. It is reported that a considerable quantity of oil is now being taken therefrom. The petitioners announce their intention to instal adequate machinery and appliances for development upon a large scale. Their request is now under consideration. On the opposite side of the isthmus from Ensenada, oil has been discovered upon the island of Angel de la Guardia and elsewhere along the gulf shore, thus indicating the presence of petroleum in an extensive area.

Oil Wells Now Being Drilled

The confidence of foreign petroleum operators in the stability of conditions in the Tampico oil fields is evidenced by the fact that the sinking of new wells continues with regularity. The Transcontinental Company is sinking four, one of them now being down 1450 feet. The Mexican Gulf Company has one well down 960 feet and another 1000 feet. The East Coast Company has a well down 1500 feet, while the Huasteca Company has one down 1700 feet, in addition to the many that have been completed. The Aguila Company has also begun drilling a new well. The International Company has a new well that makes a promising showing, while the East Coast Company has one that is down 1688 feet and is now filled with oil, presaging a good flow within a short distance.

The English Oil Company has just brought in a petroleum well at a depth of 636 meters (2067 feet) which has a potential yield of nearly four thousand five hundred barrels daily.

The Island Oil Company of Tuxpam now has two sea pipe lines for loading petroleum on vessels lying outside the bar. They extend for over one mile under water.

Mexico's Vast Petroleum Possibilities

A prominent official of the Department of Industry and Commerce in a recent interview declared that at present not one-tenth of the petroleum produced in Mexico was utilized—or, rather, that could be produced by already existing wells. There are many wells that have a capacity of ten, twenty and thirty thousand barrels daily, yet which are only utilized to about ten per cent thereof. This is due to lack of means for conveying the oil by pipe line, etc., to points of embarkation, as well as to lack of shipping for carrying it to points of consumption in various portions of the world. Many of the smaller companies have as a result been obliged to offer their product for as little as ten, twelve or fifteen cents per barrel, when at the same time it was worth in the American market from a dollar per barrel upward. Various companies with producing wells have preferred to store their oil or to shut off production in the hope of better prices which will follow better facilities for shipment.

However, this has not deterred the sinking of new wells, as shown by the reports constantly received of the bringing in of new ones with heavy production. As an example, the International Petroleum Company recently brought in a new well under extraordinary conditions the yield of which was variously estimated at 30,000 to 50,000 barrels daily. Many other wells in the Tampico region are being pushed to completion with every promise of giving heavy flows.

Application has been made to the Department of Fomento by the Indian Oaxaca Mining Company for the allotment of 12,500 acres of public lands upon which to establish an agricultural colony for the benefit of the employes of the company named. The company promises to construct the necessary residences for the colonists.

Payment of Petroleum Taxes

Settlement of Those Due on Contracts Made Prior to May 1, 1917

UNDER date of April 10, 1918, President Carranza issued a decree in accordance with the authority conferred upon him by the Constitution concerning the payment of petroleum taxes upon contracts entered into prior to May 1, 1917, the date of the operation of the new Constitution. It is as follows:

ART. 1. There is hereby suspended the moratorium affecting petroleum contracts concluded prior to May 1, 1917, which may have as an object the renting of lands for the exploitation of carbures of hydrogen or the permits to carry out such exploitation through onerous titles.

ART. 2. For the enforcement of this law, three different periods are hereby established:

I. The period ending on April 15, 1913.

II. The period included between April 16, 1913, and November 30, 1916.

III. The period included between December 1, 1916, and April 30, 1917.

ART. 3. All contracts concluded prior to April 16, 1913, shall be considered as having been made in silver, without regard to the terms used in the wording of the documents relating thereto, and the rents derived from said contracts shall be paid according to the following terms:

I. Rents rendered and due up to July 31, 1913, shall be paid in silver at par without any reductions whatever.

II. Rents rendered and due during the period included between August 1, 1913, and November 30, 1916, shall be paid in metal in the amount equivalent to its nominal value, in accordance to the official table appearing in Article 10, Section I, of the law of December 24th, with the understanding that the equivalent type shall be the one of the month of each maturity.

III. Rents rendered and due in the period included between December 1, 1916, and April 30, 1917, as well as those caused prior to that date, shall be paid in silver par without reduction whatever.

ART. 4. In the contracts concluded during the second period without the express agreement of paying in special kind of money, the rents due as well as the future rents shall be paid in metallic coin equivalent to the value that the paper money had in relation to silver at the date on which said contracts were concluded, in accordance with the official table appearing in Article 10, Section I, of the law of December 24, 1917.

ART. 5. In the contracts concluded during the second period, in which an express agreement for paying in a special kind of money with the exclusion of any other money was made, the rents shall be paid, if they were made in silver, in accordance to the agreement; and if the agreement was to pay in bank notes of a certain bank or in foreign money, the payment shall be obligatory to be made in metallic national money, in accordance to the rates of exchange approved by the Department of Finance, taking as a type the one current during the date in which the contracts were concluded.

ART. 6. There shall not be considered for the effect of the previous article as an express agreement to pay in metallic money the printed blanks used in contracts.

ART. 7. In regard to the contracts concluded during the third period, the rents due as well as future rents shall be paid in metallic money, in accordance with the terms therein mentioned.

ART. 8. The stipulation mentioned in Art. 5, with regard to foreign money, is also applicable to all cases of obligations contracted in said kind of money without regard to the period in which they were contracted.

ART. 9. In all cases in which it may not appear sufficiently clear for the enforcement of this law, the authority acquainted with the case shall form a file of the proceedings with all the details relating thereto, in copy, and it shall be sent with a report to the Department of Finance, in order that the latter may dictate the respective elucidating resolution.

ART. 10. Any person who may be interested in the enforcement of this law can consult the Department of Finance, submitting the point which might have appeared doubtful in regard to the dispositions of the same.

ART. 11. In the conflicts arisen among private parties caused by the enforcement of this law, the interested parties may apply to the administrative branch by sending a memorandum to the Department of Finance, in which they must state all the necessary data, and the latter shall decide the question if they have manifested their intention of submitting themselves to its decision, with the understanding that if they choose for the administrative way to decide the question they cannot apply to the judiciary.

Transitory Articles:

I. The laws and regulations opposing to this law are hereby derogated.

II. This law shall begin to take effect from the date of its publication in the Diario Oficial of the Federation.

Emigration Discouraged

The Department of State has notified the Governors of the States of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Nuevo Leon and others on or near the border to discourage the organization of parties of workingmen by foreigners for the purpose of seeking employment in other countries. It declares that the promises made by the employment agents have not been kept and that numbers of Mexicans have found themselves penniless and under distressing conditions at border points owing to such failure. For this reason the authorities are requested to oppose this kind of operation in the future.

Companies Producing and Exporting Petroleum

Authoritative Information Regarding Companies in the Republic

BECAUSE of many inquiries regarding oil companies operating in Mexico, THE REVIEW has secured from authoritative sources the following list of companies at present actually producing as well as those exporting petroleum from the Republic. This list may be depended upon for accuracy and completeness. *None others than these are producing or exporting.*

From Tuxpam:

Mexican Petroleum Co., "El Aguila."
Penn-Mex. Fuel Co.

From Tampico:

Huasteca Petroleum Co.
Mexican Petroleum Co., "El Aguila."
East Coast Oil Co.
Freeport and Mexican Fuel Oil Corporation.
The Tampico Company.
Mexican Gulf Company.
The Texas Company.
Interocean Oil Co. (non-producing; export only).
Standard Oil Co. (non-producing; export only).
Pierce Oil Corporation (non-producing; export only).
Union Oil Co. (non-producing; export only).

The following companies are producing, but not exporting:

La Petrolera Poblana, S. A.
Veracruz-Mex. Oil Syndicate, Ltd.
Topila Petroleum Co.
Tampacas Petroleum Co.
"Tal Vez" Oil Co.
Transcontinental Petroleum Co.
Panuco-Boston Oil Co.
National Oil Co.
Mexican Petroleum Co.
Mexican Oil Co.
Cia. Pet. "Monterrey," S. A.
Mexican Fuel Co.
"La Corona" Co.

The Mexican Petroleum Company and the Transcontinental have contracts for oil deliveries in Mexico, which they are filling.

Retail Prices in Mexico City

From the latest newspapers received from Mexico City are taken the following retail prices of various necessaries of life:

Starch—17½ cents American gold per lb.
Rice—9.66 cents.
Sugar—8¼ to 12½ cents.
Coffee (green)—8¾ cents.
Dried Meat—20 cents.
Beans—10 cents.
Garbanzas (chick peas)—9¼ cents.
Flour—6 cents.
Corn—4½ cents.
Lard—36 cents.
Potatoes—4.6 cents.
Other food articles at proportionate prices.

Recent Tariff Changes

Presidential Authority to Modify Export and Import Duties Without First Submitting the Changes to Congress

MANY changes have recently been made in the Mexican import and export tariffs and customs regulations. Frequent recourse has been made to the law authorizing the President to modify import and export duties without first submitting the proposed changes to Congress. Of some assistance in the construction of the many laws and orders covering export and import duties and internal taxes, however, is the budget law for 1918, which specifies the laws which shall be regarded as still in force, without itself introducing any changes of importance. The paper surtax of 100 per cent of the duty, which is negligible in amount, as also the port surtaxes of 1½ to 2 per cent of the duty, depending on the port of importation, and certain unimportant special surtaxes, are continued, as are the various internal stamp and other taxes and charges.

Power to adopt discriminating tariffs was conferred upon the President by a law of December 25, 1917. Under this law "the Executive is authorized, while the abnormal conditions arising from the present world war continue, to adopt differential rules and tariff schedules for the various nations with which Mexico has commercial relations, in order to favor commerce with such countries as place no restrictions of any kind on their commerce with the Mexican Republic." So far no action has been taken under this authorization, but it is understood that a differential tariff schedule is in the course of preparation.

Import Duties

The exemption from import duties for automobiles and other vehicles specified in tariff items 624, 625, and 627-629 of the Mexican import tariff has been extended to June 30, 1918, as has also that for lard, rice, potatoes, grains, sugar, and flour. The exemption for automobiles applies also to attachments for converting Ford automobiles into motor trucks.

Articles on which the duties have recently been modified include corsets, cotton and cotton fabrics, and malt. In the case of corsets, the new rates, which went into effect on February 1, 1918, represent an increase of 50 per cent over the former rates, the object of the increase being to encourage the domestic industry. The same reason was assigned for the imposition of duty on certain cotton fabrics, which had been free of duty since August 1, 1917. The new duties began to be applied December 20, 1917, and are 25 per cent of the regular duties specified in the import tariff under items 313 and 315, for plain cotton fabrics not over 130 centimeters (51.18 inches) in width and containing up to 60 threads in the warp and weft in 1 square centimeter (152.4 threads per square inch). Dyed, printed or colored cotton fabrics specified in items 319 and 320 receive a reduction of 50 per cent of the duties if containing not more than 40 threads in the warp and weft in 1 square centimeter (101.6 threads per square inch), and of 25 per cent of the duty if the number of threads is from 40 to 60. Ginned cotton and cotton thread on spools pay only 25 per cent of the corresponding duties, and cotton and wool blankets are admitted free. No time limit is fixed for the application of these reductions and exemptions.

The duty on malt has been increased to 0.08 peso per kilo, and unconfirmed reports have been received that the duties on American machinery and implements of iron are to be fixed at 0.05 peso to 2 pesos per 100 kilos, in place of 0.02 peso per kilo, or remitted altogether. The exemption granted to agricultural machinery since October 1, 1917, has already been noted in Commerce Reports of October 2, 1917.

Export Duties

The changes in the Mexican export duties and regulations have been especially numerous. Official values have been fixed for determining the export duties on hides and skins and henequen, which were placed on an ad valorem basis by a decree of September 22, 1917, while the duties on green guayule and on rubber and guayule gum specified in the same decree have been reduced to 3 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.

The schedule of valuation for assessing the export duties on petroleum products during January and February shows an increase of 100 per cent in the valuation of refined gasoline and of about 33 1-3 per cent for unrefined gasoline. It is reported that the taxes on petroleum properties and petroleum products are to be further increased.

Duties on Ores and Metals

Of special interest are the recent changes in the export duties on ores and metals. On December 13, 1917, it was decided to double the export duties on gold and silver, thereby making the rates 10 per cent ad valorem on bullion, and 14 per cent ad valorem on ores and concentrates, but these increases were apparently never put in force as the monthly schedule of taxes for February, 1918, shows about the same level as heretofore. On January 22, 1918, however, a decree was issued reducing to 1 per cent ad valorem the export duty on zinc in the form of ore, concentrates, or bars, the duty on other ores remaining 3 per cent ad valorem. More recently the duty on graphite has been reduced to 1.3 per cent ad valorem. The reduction in the duty on zinc was found necessary by reason of the decrease in the price in the United States. An order had previously been issued to facilitate the exportation of zinc before the assay had been completed.

By a decree of December 14, 1917, export duties were placed on iron and steel bars, wire, ingots, structural shapes, railway material, beams, and other forms, which were previously free of duty. At the same time the exportation of iron and steel manufactures, cables, pipe, and machinery was prohibited, except with the permission of the Treasury Department.

Export Embargoes

In modification of the export tariff, absolute or conditional embargoes have been placed on the exportation of meats, fresh eggs, and milk, hog lard, potatoes, and imported goods, the exportation of which is regarded by the Secretary of the Treasury as prejudicial to the national interests. Aniline and coal-tar dyes and natural and synthetic alizarine have also been placed under embargo.

Consular and Customs Regulations

A circular issued on January 4, 1918, contains important regulations regarding declarations of value. In accordance with the terms of this circular, which is a restatement of previous regulations, the commercial invoices covering shipments to Mexico must bear at the foot a sworn declaration signed by the manufacturer or vendor to the effect that the values stated therein are correct and be presented to the consul, together with the consular invoice. The invoice bearing the declaration is to be retained by the consul, a note to that effect being made on all the copies of the consular invoice. Fraudulent declarations are punishable by a fine of from 10 to 100 pesos, in addition to the amount of the consular fees avoided. The declaration on the commercial invoice is not required of commission agents and similar representatives, who must, however, sign the declaration in the consular invoice.

Extensive Use of Autos

Statistics regarding the use of automobiles in the city of Mexico show that in 1910 there were 600 machines in private ownership for personal use, while in 1918 the number had increased to 1283. In 1910 there were but 15 machines for hire to the public, while in 1918 the number is 780. Besides these, there are 44 taximeters, 92 motorcycles and 1469 bicycles in use, with 195 motor trucks. There are also 822 horse-drawn carriages for public rental. During the past year upward of twelve million liters of gasoline were used in the city, equal to about three million gallons, the average price paid by consumers being the equivalent of ten cents American gold per liter or forty cents per gallon. The manufacture of automobiles, tires and other essentials is now being carried on in the Republic and will be extensively increased owing to the embargo established by the United States upon the exportation of such articles.

Extensive discoveries of guano are reported from Sonora as having been made by miners prospecting in the Sierra Madre. Large caves have been found in which this valuable substance has been accumulating for centuries, and many thousands of tons are available for shipment.

Land, Crops and Food

Increased Area Cultivated, Crops Promise Abundant Yield, and Food Shortage Remedied

REPORTS have been received by the Department of Agriculture from the chief grain-producing sections of the Republic that the prospects for the coming crop are excellent for an unusually large yield. Weather conditions have been very favorable and the acreage planted is larger than ever before. Material reductions in the price of wheat and flower are therefore predicted.

A special agency has been established at Laredo under the direction of the Department of Agriculture for expediting the importation of agricultural machinery, seeds, plants, etc., to be used in the Republic. Various State governments as well as the National Administration are purchasing tractors and other modern machinery and instructing farmers in their use.

At the colony of Nacimiento, in the State of Coahuila, lands are being allotted to cultivators in small tracts, according to instructions from the Secretary of Fomento. These lands are very fertile and well watered and are largely held by Indians of the old Seminole and Kickapoo tribes, who emigrated to that region from the United States many years ago.

The municipal officials of all towns in the Federal District have taken steps to put into cultivation all vacant lands that are not utilized by their owners for productive purposes. Several thousands of acres will thus be added to the crop-producing capacity of that region, which will materially benefit the markets of the capital city.

A meeting of farmers was held in the Federal District on the fifteenth of the present month for the purpose of arranging for the cultivation of all the lands belonging to the municipality which were not in use. Lands belonging to private parties but not cultivated are also included, use to be made for a single year only.

The importation of agricultural machinery of modern type upon a large scale has been decided upon by Secretary Rouaix, of the Department of Agriculture and Development, and the necessary steps are being taken to introduce such articles free of all duty in accordance with the recent declaration of President Carranza.

Some ten thousand tons of sugar are being shipped from various Central American countries to west coast ports. Four thousand tons have already arrived at Manzanillo, and the remainder is en route. As rapidly as received it is shipped by rail to other portions of the Republic where the crop was short.

It is announced on authority that the sugar crop of the State of Sinaloa for the season reached the total of 22,000 tons, while the crop of corn has been so large that several States have been supplied with all that was needed because of the temporary and limited shortage in the grain crop.

By the reclamation of large areas of land that have been subject to inundation on the borders of Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco, much fertile and productive soil has been brought under cultivation, while at the same time the sanitary conditions of that region have been greatly improved.

Reports from Chihuahua and from the Laguna region of Coahuila and Durango state that after two years of short crops, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, the prospects now are for the best output ever known. The area under cultivation has been largely increased, and the crops have been diversified.

Two new factories have been established in Villahermosa, capital of the State of Tabasco, for the manufacture of flour from bananas, and the extraction and utilization of the rubber contained in the skins of the fruit. Several plants are already operating sucessfully.

Official reports from the State of Jalisco declare that conditions of all kinds in that section have resumed a normal state. Industries of every variety are in full operation, agricultural pursuits especially being prosperous, while the coming crops of all kinds will be larger than ever before.

A plant of the agave family has been discovered in the State of Oaxaca that produces a fiber in every respect equal to that of the henequen of Yucatan. The Department of Agriculture will undertake its exploitation upon an extensive scale.

The Department of Agriculture proposes to establish a plant with the most modern machinery for the purpose of extracting oil from the large variety of seeds and fruits produced in the Republic and which possess valuable oleaginous properties.

Reports from Chiapas are that the crop of corn and other cereals for the present season has been larger than for years and that much has been shipped to other sections, while prices have been materially decreased as a result.

Six steamers recently discharged at the port of Manzanillo large shipments of corn, beans, sugar, "sesame," and other food products, which are being shipped into the interior of the Republic where crops have been temporarily short.

Reports are received from the State of Nuevo Leon that crops in all sections promise to be most abundant. The rainfall has been better than usual, while the area under cultivation has been largely increased.

It is estimated that the crop of potatoes that will be harvested in the State of Guanajuato in May and June will reach eleven million pounds, which will permit of large shipments to other portions of the Republic.

A decree has been prepared permitting the free importation of the machinery needed in agricultural and mining development in all portions of the Republic and will shortly be issued and put into effect.

The National Agrarian Commission is considering the proper means for indemnifying land owners whose property is necessary for carrying out the work of that body.

The Government now has six extensive gardens for the propagation of trees of various kinds, including many varities of fruit, and a grand total of over a million and a half are produced each year for general distribution. Attention is being paid to the reforestation of extensive areas of land that have been denuded of their former growth and are not adapted to agricultural purposes.

The municipal authorities of Torreon report that a large portion of the hitherto unutilized lands in that section have been put under cultivation under its regulation and that as a result, climatic exigencies excepted, the coming crop will be sufficient to remove all danger of shortage or consequent suffering among the poor.

Secretary Pastor Rouaix, of the Department of Fomento and Agriculture, has been visiting the Laguna region of Coahuila and Durango, and after inspection says that he is satisfied the wheat crop alone of that locality will aggregate twenty thousand tons—sufficient to supply all the needs of the adjacent States and leave a large surplus for exportation to other portions of the Republic.

In response to the request of the Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon, the Department of Agriculture has sent to that section supplies of seeds and also a number of tractors for the use of the poorer farmers. The seed will be distributed free of charge and the tractors will be ultimately sold on time to those making use thereof.

Official reports from the State of Durango are of the most encouraging character, both as regards social conditions and also as to the prospects for the coming grain crop. With a slight exception the entire State is free from banditry and the outlaws remaining in the mountain fastnesses are being pursued with vigor.

The Government of the United States has opened an agricultural experimental station at Torreon, the principal object of which is to study the cultivation of cotton and to take measures to combat the various insect enemies of the plant which abound in the Laguna region.

A large amount of flour recently received in the capital city is to be made into bread and sold at cost to the poor under Governmental auspices.

Powerful Wireless Station

A new wireless station has been established on the island of Lobos, off the coast of Tampico, largely for the purpose of affording the various petroleum companies facilities for communicating with their vessels while great distances at sea. This station is provided with some of the most powerful apparatus and will be able to communicate with the wireless stations at Mexico City, Tuxpam, Tampico, Vera Cruz, Progreso, Frontera, Mazatlan, Santa Rosalia, La Paz, Queretaro, Monterrey, Saltillo, Torreon, and by way of Havana with various stations in the United States. It is expected to prove of great value in advancing the commercial interests of the Republic.

Moral Support for Mexico

A Long Oppressed People Worthy of the Same Consideration the United States Accords to Other Liberty Lovers

Mrs. George D. Shadburne, Jr., in San Francisco "Chronicle"

WHEN one hears on all sides expressions of sympathy for those who are at present involved in the greatest struggle of all history, battling to preserve all of those ideals that embody the great principles of democracy; when one hears and reads the opinions that express a common understanding, a generous fellow feeling for the Russian heroes and martyrs who are spattering the pages of Russian history with their noble blood in order to deliver their people from an excruciating thralldom, and to afford them the privilege of inhaling the breath of liberty and all that goes with this precious gift—one wonders why this common understanding, this sympathy, this fellow-feeling is never extended one foot over the border south of us. One wonders why we, the people of this great American nation, admitted to be the most generous in the whole world, have withheld from our sister Republic what we have accorded to the other struggling nations.

Story Written in Blood

Mexico's bitter and tragical story is written in the blood of thousands of martyrs—martyrs and heroes who died so that they might bequeath to their children and their children's children that for which we are all fighting today—Freedom! Freedom of body, freedom of thought, freedom to develop their country, freedom to educate their people, freedom to break the mental bondage of the poor, who have been saturated with the lesson of submission, humility and obedience for over 400 years! Freedom to let in the blessed light to these dumb-driven masses, who have been so cowed that they were willing to remain cowed! Freedom for their laboring classes, from the stifling peonage under which they have tottered for ages! Freedom to operate their governmental affairs according to their own interpretation of the principles of democracy! Freedom to develop and manage the great industries of their country, for the advantage of the Mexican people! Freedom to enforce the laws which are incorporated in their great Constitution! Freedom to own their country and manage their own affairs, for the Mexicans and by the Mexicans!

Deny Mexico Justice

And yet, there are those, and plenty of them, who deny to Mexico what they proclaim in clarion tones is the just right of other nations. They have even attempted to try to make the Mexicans believe they must change themselves into something else. They must not think with a Mexican mind—they must not feel with a Mexican soul. The Mexicans are proud of their ancestry, proud of their intelligence, proud of their talents, proud of their inherent sentiments, and wish to remain Mexicans. The opposition which has been hurled against the loyal heroes, defenders of "The Reformation," has been appalling and incomprehensible. We are condemning on one side what we defend on another.

Confusion and Discontent

Mexico finds herself in the same condition that the South was after the Civil War. Naturally, confusion and discontent followed—confusion, owing to the various political groups fighting for supremacy, and discontent from among the groups of the defeated. Only, in Mexico's case the conditions have been worse. Outside greedy interests have labored to keep those groups apart, have labored to keep the spark of hatred burning; they don't want the people united; they know that the complete union of the Mexican people means the death knell of the exploiter, of the interferer. But, in spite of all this, Mexico is succeeding; the people are uniting, and it will not be long before they are all bound by the ties of a common suffering, and by the ties of brotherly love. There are those among the defeated who have nobly admitted the terrible wrong which has existed in that country for so many years.

So-Called Prosperity Under Diaz

Many say that never was the country so prosperous as during the administration of Don Porfirio Diaz, but they forget to add that never were so many foreigners prosperous in a foreign country, and never in the history of any nation were a native people more neglected and oppressed.

How long would our laboring classes stand for a wage of one-half of a bit a day (6¼ cents)? Can the American mind grasp or would it countenance such a condition as this? How long would our laboring classes stand being refused the privilege of the ballot? And how long would a decent American public endure such treatment of their people? And I have heard an ex-General of the Porfirio Diaz army say that these unfortunates did not need the vote, that they would not vote if they could, and, furthermore, that they did not understand it. He also made the statement that all the women of this class needed was one dress, one pair of shoes, a little patch around a house (he did not describe that), with a few little trees and a few little vegetables, and no theaters and no movies—that they did not care for anything more, even if offered to them. How long would the daughter of one of our laborers stand for that sort of a life? One dress! One pair of shoes! And no movies! And, furthermore, they were willing to remain in that state of bondage. Will the American mind read between the lines and grasp the spirit of this statement? This General, this man presumably well educated, really is sincere in his belief; he thinks that this is the proper way to take care of the masses. He is simply another version of the system which has controlled that misunderstood country for all these ages!

Branded as Bandits

And yet, when a group of noble, high-minded, educated men demanded a change in their economic life, a change that would bring about a more equitable system of caring for their fellow beings, they were branded as bandits, as thieves, as murderers. Of course, those who were fattening their pocketbooks at the expense of this downtrodden race joined the Mexicans who formed the ring that suffocated the populace and caused them to rise in their might, burst asunder the chains which were strangling the very vitals of their nation and fight to the death for the emancipation of their people.

And now that Victory has crowned their efforts, and they are bending every energy to firmly establish the great principles for which they fought, let us extend to them that same fellow feeling, that same understanding, that same moral support which we are giving to the other nations who are struggling for what Mexico has yearned for and been deprived of all these long, weary years.

Mormons Returning to Chihuahua State

Facilities for Bringing Their Families to Their Old Homes

THE Secretary of State transmitted under a recent date to the Inspectors of the Immigration Service in the Republic the following circular:

"This Bureau is informed that certain Mormons who have returned to the State of Chihuahua, when they became aware of the situation maintained in the region where they lived, returned to the United States for the purpose of bringing their families to the place where they had invested in lands, but were unable to use, for a second time, the passports issued them for coming to our country.

"For the purpose of saving trouble for the Mormons referred to, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs has already instructed Mexican Consuls in North America to the effect that they affix a special note to every passport they may issue to persons found in the condition mentioned, exempting the Inspector from making cancellations required by Circular No. 1965 of this Bureau, dated the fourteenth of last September. At the same time permit me to note that every passport issued by foreign authorities for their respective citizens should be vised by the Mexican Consul nearest the point of departure, without which requisite the document must not be accepted by our immigration officers, since there is danger that some foreigners recognized as enemies of our Government may enter the country to exploit seditious work.

"Communicated to you for your information and in order that you regulate your conduct in conformity with the aforesaid,—I repeat to you my attentive consideration.

"Constitution and Reforms.

"Mexico, February 22, 1918.

"Office of the Chief Secretary, P. Machorro and Narvez."

Canadian and Mexican Trade

Each Country Has Many Products That the Other Needs—Water Transportation Facilities the Only Obstacle

"I AM glad to see Canadians commencing to display an interest in Mexican commercial possibilities," remarked Edward J. Leveson to a representative of *The Sun*. "There are in that country vast possibilities for the development of a large and lucrative trade. Mexico has many things that we want, and we have many things that she needs. All that now is required to commence to bring some of these commercial benefits to Vancouver is a coastal connection by ships, preferably ships fitted with refrigerator apparatus, so that the splendid tropical fruits of that country can be brought in safely. Of course, the other products of the country, the main articles of commerce, would not require refrigerator protection."

Though reluctant to be interviewed, Mr. Leveson was well informed on economic, commercial and political conditions in Mexico and willing to explain Mexican conditions. He spent many years there before he came to this city, and he is still actively interested in Mexican properties, being in addition to other associations in Mexico a director in the British Columbia-Mexico Co., Ltd., a large development company on the west coast.

Stable Foundation

"The Mexican Government," he continued, "is on a far more stable foundation now than many people realize. President Carranza is fast getting matters into shape. The Constitution of the new Mexican Government is one of the most progressive, and in many respects radical, codes that the world has ever seen. The notable features of it are the new agrarian and labor laws. It contains the best points of the constitutions of the United States and the French republics.

"We on the west coast of the Dominion should extend a warm welcome to Señor Eduardo Soriano Bravo, the newly appointed consul-general of Mexico to Canada," he said.

"Señor Bravo has for some years represented his country as consul at New Orleans, and now he is here in Canada to investigate and encourage the many possibilities of trade between Mexico and ourselves.

"Through some years of internal trouble and dissension, disturbing the economic condition of her territories, Mexico is emerging into a period of reconstruction of her social, financial and commercial conditions; and we feel sure that you will be glad to hear first hand some of the interesting facts in relation thereto which her official representative has to tell us.

Friend of President

"It has been a great pleasure to me personally to meet Señor Bravo, not only in his official capacity, but as a personal friend of the President of Mexico, Señor Carranza, who honored me, through his finance minister, Sr. Lic. Luis Cabrera, with a message to the Premier of Canada last year, assuring Canada of Mexico's adherence to strict neutrality in this period of war—when the press of the United States was hinting at the reverse.

"The British Columbia-Mexico Company, in which I am interested, is developing properties, productive of foodstuffs, on the west coast of Mexico, and we hope in the near future to become pioneers in the resuscitation of trade between the two countries, each of which is capable of supplying the other's wants. We also look forward to the possibility of direct water transportation between Mexico's west coast and our own here of Victoria and Vancouver.

Canada-Mexico Service

Mr. Leveson stated that in his opinion the future trade of Canada with Mexico was made possible by the water route of the Pacific. It should be undertaken with regular scheduled sailings, proper supervision, and thorough organization, through which means only a satisfactory service be established. Every possible credit should be given to the Mexican Government and to Señor Bravo for their efforts now being put forth to develop a Canadian trade. The Mexican Government sincerely desired the development of trade with this country, and in such development lay a promising future for those who went into it. But business negotiations should be carefully considered before definite action is taken.

The company which Mr. Leveson represents is developing agricultural properties on the Southern Pacific Railway on the western seaboard of Mexico near the towns of Mazatlan and Acaponeta. The company has full powers for trade, shipping, manufacture and development, and has spent a large amount of money in development. To show the fertility of the soil there, Mr. Leveson gave an estimate of the 1918 crop production on properties on the west coast. Tomatoes would produce 320 boxes per acre, beans 1600 pounds to the acre, corn 4800 pounds to the acre. Other agricultural products grew in proportion. The exports include silver, gold, copper, rubber, hides, coffee, hardwood, lumber and dye-woods, vanilla, beans, tobacco, cotton-seed meal and cakes, and tropical fruits.

Plenty of Fruit

"There is no reason why Mexico should not supply the whole Pacific coast with tropical fruits," said Mr. Leveson. "In my opinion that is one of the greatest commercial openings to be found in a country which offers more inducement to capital at the present time than any part of the Americas. The fruit could be shipped up the coast from the west of Mexico and landed right here in Vancouver in much less time and at much less cost than tropical fruit is bought to-day.

"With the quieting down of the rebellion there will be the greatest boom in land on this continent. The country will, I believe, settle up rapidly, trade and commerce will flourish, the wonderful crop-growing propensities of the land will be exploited to the full, and the ground will be mined more assiduously than ever. I anticipate a very great future for Mexico."

Mr. Leveson called special attention to the improved credit and promised banking facilities under the present Mexican Government.—*Vancouver (B. C.) Daily Sun.*

OIL

I am older than thou!
Before you were, I was.
Through countless ages have I been conserved by Mother Nature.
I lay inert and unchanging,
Yet power within me lay!
Yes, power to dispel darkness alone at first!
Then great and mobile heat was developed from me!
I served the housewife midst her labors in the kitchen!
Then I leapt to the side of the master I had made!
I drove him first from penury to plutocracy!
Then I drove him winging along his chariots of speed,
And I too am that who has conquered the air!
And likewise have I conquered the deeps!
Man loves me like a lavish mistress!
I need but hint my presence,
And, lo! leagues and hemispheres does he travel in search of me!
For he knows that always am I alluring and enchanting!
Even though betimes deceiving and hope-deferring.
Mistress am I of thousands of masters!
My first smile is as the rainbow!
And how eagerly grasp they that faintest rainbow hue!
For its deepening smile lures them down to me!
Down to the depths of earth,
To encourage its alluring charm,
I touch them and soon Midas, Crœsus and Monte Cristo of fabled fame are fleshed alive!
My vanguard are braver than the crusaders of old!
My troopers more valiant than Cæsar's legions!
And, perhaps, of greater multitude!
Master have I none; yet mistress am I of armies!
To-day, cupped in my palm, hold I the destiny of dictators!
I add to science's learning!
Distances I destroy!
Heights I scale!
Seas I ride, their depths I defy!
Industry I encourage!
Adventure I reward!
Patience I immortalize!
Fickle though am I!
Sinews and brawn I command!
Brain and energy watch my beck!
Before you were, I was!
Yet ever at your side find you me!
I am oil!

—*Unknown.*

The Truth About Mexico

A Californian Opinion That What That Country Needs Is to Be Let Entirely Alone

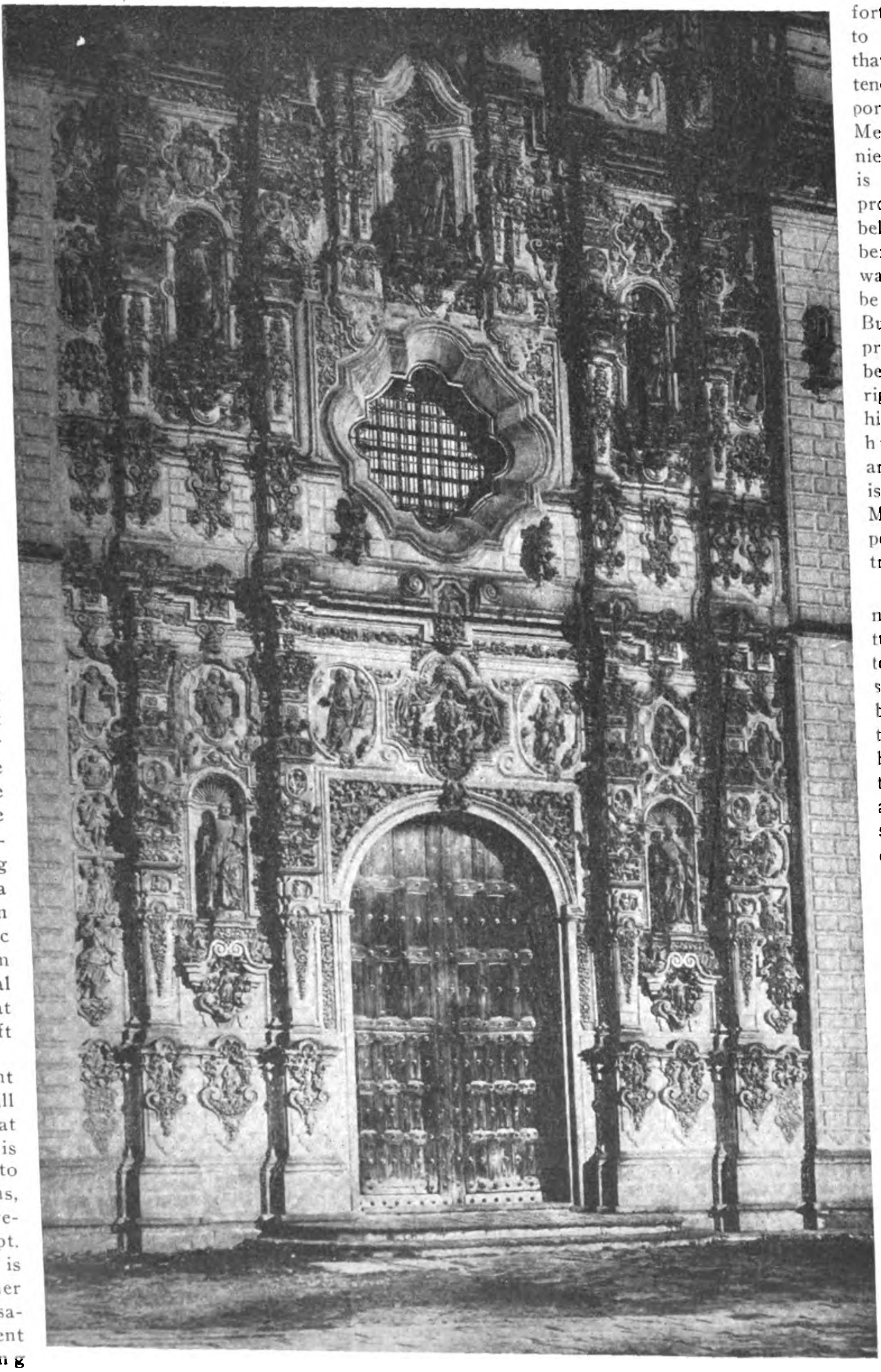
AFTER great tribulation, it has become apparent that the Carranza Government is an enlightened Government, in possession of adequate power fully to restore and maintain order in the country, and all that is necessary to enable it to accomplish those purposes is for the governments and people of other countries to let Mexico alone.

There is still some banditry in Mexico, which is none of our business, except in so far as it may be our duty to ascertain to what extent it is inspired and supported by the money of Americans, to locate any of our citizens who are or have been guilty of such practices and inflict suitable punishment upon them.

The fundamental cause of the troubles which have existed in Mexico is the attempt to perpetuate in that country the ancient Spanish system, under which the lords were the owners of all the lands and the people who tilled them dependents. This feeling was accentuated by a system of taxation which derived public revenues mainly from taxation of personal effort, while the great land holdings were left untaxed.

That system ought to be changed, and will be. To the extent that the national faith is involved in respect to grants and concessions, it ought to be and presumably will be kept. If land once granted is expropriated, the owner should have compensation based on present income-producing value, which in most cases would be trifling. One great exception is in respect to land found to contain petroleum. In those cases the Government intends rightly to protest the public interest by appropriate taxation.

But there are American landowners in Mexico, and foreign exploiters of petroleum deposits, who most strenuously object to any change of Mexican institutions which will impair their power to exploit the Mexican people forever. It is believed in Mexico that it is from these foreigners, and especially from Americans, that the greater part of the money has come to maintain banditry. Names are freely mentioned, and if our own Government has any desire to ascertain whether reports of American contributions to Mexican banditry are true it can get "clews" from almost any one on the street.



Main Entrance to the Church of Tepozatlan, State of Mexico

There are obvious efforts to create hostility to Mexico by reports that the Government intends to prohibit the export of Mexican oil. The Mexican Government denies such intention, and is plainly as willing to profit by selling to any belligerent as we were before we entered the war. And nobody could be more willing than that. But if Mexico should prohibit exports it would be as much within its rights as we are in prohibiting the export of hundreds of things, among them gold which is the property of the Mexican Government or people incautiously entrusted to our keeping.

If any American does not like Mexican institutions, or Mexican customs or people, he should stay out of Mexico. Nobody asks him to go there. If he goes there, he should be prepared to treat the Mexican people and institutions with the same respect which we expect from Mexicans visiting us. And if he adopts Mexico as a permanent residence he should assimilate himself into the Mexican life just as we expect immigrants to be assimilated into American life.

An American who goes into Mexico and puts on airs, pretending superiority and exhibiting contempt of those about him will deserve, and probably get, about the same treatment which a Mexican would get by expressing contempt for America on the streets of San Franciso.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

The collections of duties on postal packages entering Mexico from the United States reaches a total of $60,000 annually.

Regarding Foreign Trade

Mexican Chamber of Commerce Talks to American Manufacturers, Exporters and Importers

YOU are keeping more foreign trade. Mexico is your nearest neighbor. When the revival comes here it will bring great trade activity, and it is up to Americans to to hold their present lead. Mr. John Barrett estimates that after Mexico's troubles are settled her foreign business will increase near fourfold in ten years. Her oil production has increased fiftyfold since 1907. The vast resources of the country are scarcely touched. If you are already engaged in this field the American Chamber of Commerce can help you. If you are not, you should thus get in touch with the field and so prepare for the future.

Mexico is seventeen and a half times the size of Cuba and infinitely greater in resources. Cuba's products are limited to tropical, chiefly sugar and tobacco. Mexico has all these and also metals, oil, timber, corn, wheat, live stock —everything—as possible products. It is three times as large as all of Central America and the West Indies combined.

The European nations must get from abroad raw materials for manufacturing after the war, and must seek foreign trade. Mexico, with its boundless resources and favorable position as to transportation, is especially important. German capital even now is being invested here. The United States has deep interest in the increase of the important volume of trade that already exists between the two countries. This will help to solve other problems and will add to the prosperity and good relations of both countries, as is shown so strikingly in the case of Cuba and the United States, under much less favorable natural conditions and importance.

The Americans living and doing business in Mexico are aroused to this crisis. We are cultivating friendly trade relations in Mexico with the Mexicans. This is for your good as well as ours. We ask you to support us by becoming members of this Chamber of Commerce. Its usefulness will depend on the breadth of its support and influence. Its management here is in the hands of American business men like yourselves. It is strictly non-political. It is the practical channel for the work that is to be done here.

Through this membership you will at trifling expense be brought and kept in close touch with this field, which is of far greater importance to your interest than you have realized.

Yours truly,

AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE OF
MEXICO, S. C. L.
S. W. RIDER, *President.*
C. B. PARKER,
Acting Secretary.

Church Front in City of Puebla

Reason vs. Fanaticism

If you were to discuss Mexico with many Americans you would find no difficulty in obtaining the prompt verdict that "Mexico is no good" and that "Mexico ought to be abolished." If you were to discuss it further you would find from these persons that "Mexico has been the scourge of humanity in the Western Hemisphere," and that "it never will be worth a continental until the United States shall have seized it and made it a place modeled after the plan of the United States, in type and kind of government."

Should you seek further information from persons rendering these off-hand remedies for the Mexican Nation you would find that they never had seen Mexico; that they had never lived in the country for which they had a remedy, and you further would learn that they had never even so much as read the history of the Mexican Nation. In fact, your informants would be persons who could inform you nothing about the industrial, military or political history of the country that has had so much trouble within the past ten years. Yet they would tell Mexico how to manage itself and what is the matter with it.

If you should read Professor Frederic Starr's book telling of his recent 26 years of life and study of Mexico, where he spent most

(Concluded on page 24)

Recent Tariff Changes

Presidential Authority to Modify Export and Import Duties Without First Submitting the Changes to Congress

MANY changes have recently been made in the Mexican import and export tariffs and customs regulations. Frequent recourse has been made to the law authorizing the President to modify import and export duties without first submitting the proposed changes to Congress. Of some assistance in the construction of the many laws and orders covering export and import duties and internal taxes, however, is the budget law for 1918, which specifies the laws which shall be regarded as still in force, without itself introducing any changes of importance. The paper surtax of 100 per cent of the duty, which is negligible in amount, as also the port surtaxes of 1½ to 2 per cent of the duty, depending on the port of importation, and certain unimportant special surtaxes, are continued, as are the various internal stamp and other taxes and charges.

Power to adopt discriminating tariffs was conferred upon the President by a law of December 25, 1917. Under this law "the Executive is authorized, while the abnormal conditions arising from the present world war continue, to adopt differential rules and tariff schedules for the various nations with which Mexico has commercial relations, in order to favor commerce with such countries as place no restrictions of any kind on their commerce with the Mexican Republic." So far no action has been taken under this authorization, but it is understood that a differential tariff schedule is in the course of preparation.

Import Duties

The exemption from import duties for automobiles and other vehicles specified in tariff items 624, 625, and 627-629 of the Mexican import tariff has been extended to June 30, 1918, as has also that for lard, rice, potatoes, grains, sugar, and flour. The exemption for automobiles applies also to attachments for converting Ford automobiles into motor trucks.

Articles on which the duties have recently been modified include corsets, cotton and cotton fabrics, and malt. In the case of corsets, the new rates, which went into effect on February 1, 1918, represent an increase of 50 per cent over the former rates, the object of the increase being to encourage the domestic industry. The same reason was assigned for the imposition of duty on certain cotton fabrics, which had been free of duty since August 1, 1917. The new duties began to be applied December 20, 1917, and are 25 per cent of the regular duties specified in the import tariff under items 313 and 315, for plain cotton fabrics not over 130 centimeters (51.18 inches) in width and containing up to 60 threads in the warp and weft in 1 square centimeter (152.4 threads per square inch). Dyed, printed or colored cotton fabrics specified in items 319 and 320 receive a reduction of 50 per cent of the duties if containing not more than 40 threads in the warp and weft in 1 square centimeter (101.6 threads per square inch), and of 25 per cent of the duty if the number of threads is from 40 to 60. Ginned cotton and cotton thread on spools pay only 25 per cent of the corresponding duties, and cotton and wool blankets are admitted free. No time limit is fixed for the application of these reductions and exemptions.

The duty on malt has been increased to 0.08 peso per kilo, and unconfirmed reports have been received that the duties on American machinery and implements of iron are to be fixed at 0.05 peso to 2 pesos per 100 kilos, in place of 0.02 peso per kilo, or remitted altogether. The exemption granted to agricultural machinery since October 1, 1917, has already been noted in Commerce Reports of October 2, 1917.

Export Duties

The changes in the Mexican export duties and regulations have been especially numerous. Official values have been fixed for determining the export duties on hides and skins and henequen, which were placed on an ad valorem basis by a decree of September 22, 1917, while the duties on green guayule and on rubber and guayule gum specified in the same decree have been reduced to 3 per cent and 2 per cent, respectively.

The schedule of valuation for assessing the export duties on petroleum products during January and February shows an increase of 100 per cent in the valuation of refined gasoline and of about 33 1-3 per cent for unrefined gasoline. It is reported that the taxes on petroleum properties and petroleum products are to be further increased.

Duties on Ores and Metals

Of special interest are the recent changes in the export duties on ores and metals. On December 13, 1917, it was decided to double the export duties on gold and silver, thereby making the rates 10 per cent ad valorem on bullion, and 14 per cent ad valorem on ores and concentrates, but these increases were apparently never put in force as the monthly schedule of taxes for February, 1918, shows about the same level as heretofore. On January 22, 1918, however, a decree was issued reducing to 1 per cent ad valorem the export duty on zinc in the form of ore, concentrates, or bars, the duty on other ores remaining 3 per cent ad valorem. More recently the duty on graphite has been reduced to 1.3 per cent ad valorem. The reduction in the duty on zinc was found necessary by reason of the decrease in the price in the United States. An order had previously been issued to facilitate the exportation of zinc before the assay had been completed.

By a decree of December 14, 1917, export duties were placed on iron and steel bars, wire, ingots, structural shapes, railway material, beams, and other forms, which were previously free of duty. At the same time the exportation of iron and steel manufactures, cables, pipe, and machinery was prohibited, except with the permission of the Treasury Department.

Export Embargoes

In modification of the export tariff, absolute or conditional embargoes have been placed on the exportation of meats, fresh eggs, and milk, hog lard, potatoes, and imported goods, the exportation of which is regarded by the Secretary of the Treasury as prejudicial to the national interests. Aniline and coal-tar dyes and natural and synthetic alizarine have also been placed under embargo.

Consular and Customs Regulations

A circular issued on January 4, 1918, contains important regulations regarding declarations of value. In accordance with the terms of this circular, which is a restatement of previous regulations, the commercial invoices covering shipments to Mexico must bear at the foot a sworn declaration signed by the manufacturer or vendor to the effect that the values stated therein are correct and be presented to the consul, together with the consular invoice. The invoice bearing the declaration is to be retained by the consul, a note to that effect being made on all the copies of the consular invoice. Fraudulent declarations are punishable by a fine of from 10 to 100 pesos, in addition to the amount of the consular fees avoided. The declaration on the commercial invoice is not required of commission agents and similar representatives, who must, however, sign the declaration in the consular invoice.

Extensive Use of Autos

Statistics regarding the use of automobiles in the city of Mexico show that in 1910 there were 600 machines in private ownership for personal use, while in 1918 the number had increased to 1283. In 1910 there were but 15 machines for hire to the public, while in 1918 the number is 780. Besides these, there are 44 taximeters, 92 motorcycles and 1469 bicycles in use, with 195 motor trucks. There are also 822 horse-drawn carriages for public rental. During the past year upward of twelve million liters of gasoline were used in the city, equal to about three million gallons, the average price paid by consumers being the equivalent of ten cents American gold per liter or forty cents per gallon. The manufacture of automobiles, tires and other essentials is now being carried on in the Republic and will be extensively increased owing to the embargo established by the United States upon the exportation of such articles.

Extensive discoveries of guano are reported from Sonora as having been made by miners prospecting in the Sierra Madre. Large caves have been found in which this valuable substance has been accumulating for centuries, and many thousands of tons are available for shipment.

Land, Crops and Food

Increased Area Cultivated, Crops Promise Abundant Yield, and Food Shortage Remedied

REPORTS have been received by the Department of Agriculture from the chief grain-producing sections of the Republic that the prospects for the coming crop are excellent for an unusually large yield. Weather conditions have been very favorable and the acreage planted is larger than ever before. Material reductions in the price of wheat and flower are therefore predicted.

A special agency has been established at Laredo under the direction of the Department of Agriculture for expediting the importation of agricultural machinery, seeds, plants, etc., to be used in the Republic. Various State governments as well as the National Administration are purchasing tractors and other modern machinery and instructing farmers in their use.

At the colony of Nacimiento, in the State of Coahuila, lands are being allotted to cultivators in small tracts, according to instructions from the Secretary of Fomento. These lands are very fertile and well watered and are largely held by Indians of the old Seminole and Kickapoo tribes, who emigrated to that region from the United States many years ago.

The municipal officials of all towns in the Federal District have taken steps to put into cultivation all vacant lands that are not utilized by their owners for productive purposes. Several thousands of acres will thus be added to the crop-producing capacity of that region, which will materially benefit the markets of the capital city.

A meeting of farmers was held in the Federal District on the fifteenth of the present month for the purpose of arranging for the cultivation of all the lands belonging to the municipality which were not in use. Lands belonging to private parties but not cultivated are also included, use to be made for a single year only.

The importation of agricultural machinery of modern type upon a large scale has been decided upon by Secretary Rouaix, of the Department of Agriculture and Development, and the necessary steps are being taken to introduce such articles free of all duty in accordance with the recent declaration of President Carranza.

Some ten thousand tons of sugar are being shipped from various Central American countries to west coast ports. Four thousand tons have already arrived at Manzanillo, and the remainder is en route. As rapidly as received it is shipped by rail to other portions of the Republic where the crop was short.

It is announced on authority that the sugar crop of the State of Sinaloa for the season reached the total of 22,000 tons, while the crop of corn has been so large that several States have been supplied with all that was needed because of the temporary and limited shortage in the grain crop.

By the reclamation of large areas of land that have been subject to inundation on the borders of Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco, much fertile and productive soil has been brought under cultivation, while at the same time the sanitary conditions of that region have been greatly improved.

Reports from Chihuahua and from the Laguna region of Coahuila and Durango state that after two years of short crops, owing to unfavorable weather conditions, the prospects now are for the best output ever known. The area under cultivation has been largely increased, and the crops have been diversified.

Two new factories have been established in Villahermosa, capital of the State of Tabasco, for the manufacture of flour from bananas, and the extraction and utilization of the rubber contained in the skins of the fruit. Several plants are already operating sucessfully.

Official reports from the State of Jalisco declare that conditions of all kinds in that section have resumed a normal state. Industries of every variety are in full operation, agricultural pursuits especially being prosperous, while the coming crops of all kinds will be larger than ever before.

A plant of the agave family has been discovered in the State of Oaxaca that produces a fiber in every respect equal to that of the henequen of Yucatan. The Department of Agriculture will undertake its exploitation upon an extensive scale.

The Department of Agriculture proposes to establish a plant with the most modern machinery for the purpose of extracting oil from the large variety of seeds and fruits produced in the Republic and which possess valuable oleaginous properties.

Reports from Chiapas are that the crop of corn and other cereals for the present season has been larger than for years and that much has been shipped to other sections, while prices have been materially decreased as a result.

Six steamers recently discharged at the port of Manzanillo large shipments of corn, beans, sugar, "sesame," and other food products, which are being shipped into the interior of the Republic where crops have been temporarily short.

Reports are received from the State of Nuevo Leon that crops in all sections promise to be most abundant. The rainfall has been better than usual, while the area under cultivation has been largely increased.

It is estimated that the crop of potatoes that will be harvested in the State of Guanajuato in May and June will reach eleven million pounds, which will permit of large shipments to other portions of the Republic.

A decree has been prepared permitting the free importation of the machinery needed in agricultural and mining development in all portions of the Republic and will shortly be issued and put into effect.

The National Agrarian Commission is considering the proper means for indemnifying land owners whose property is necessary for carrying out the work of that body.

The Government now has six extensive gardens for the propagation of trees of various kinds, including many varities of fruit, and a grand total of over a million and a half are produced each year for general distribution. Attention is being paid to the reforestation of extensive areas of land that have been denuded of their former growth and are not adapted to agricultural purposes.

The municipal authorities of Torreon report that a large portion of the hitherto unutilized lands in that section have been put under cultivation under its regulation and that as a result, climatic exigencies excepted, the coming crop will be sufficient to remove all danger of shortage or consequent suffering among the poor.

Secretary Pastor Rouaix, of the Department of Fomento and Agriculture, has been visiting the Laguna region of Coahuila and Durango, and after inspection says that he is satisfied the wheat crop alone of that locality will aggregate twenty thousand tons—sufficient to supply all the needs of the adjacent States and leave a large surplus for exportation to other portions of the Republic.

In response to the request of the Governor of the State of Nuevo Leon, the Department of Agriculture has sent to that section supplies of seeds and also a number of tractors for the use of the poorer farmers. The seed will be distributed free of charge and the tractors will be ultimately sold on time to those making use thereof.

Official reports from the State of Durango are of the most encouraging character, both as regards social conditions and also as to the prospects for the coming grain crop. With a slight exception the entire State is free from banditry and the outlaws remaining in the mountain fastnesses are being pursued with vigor.

The Government of the United States has opened an agricultural experimental station at Torreon, the principal object of which is to study the cultivation of cotton and to take measures to combat the various insect enemies of the plant which abound in the Laguna region.

A large amount of flour recently received in the capital city is to be made into bread and sold at cost to the poor under Governmental auspices.

Powerful Wireless Station

A new wireless station has been established on the island of Lobos, off the coast of Tampico, largely for the purpose of affording the various petroleum companies facilities for communicating with their vessels while great distances at sea. This station is provided with some of the most powerful apparatus and will be able to communicate with the wireless stations at Mexico City, Tuxpam, Tampico, Vera Cruz, Progreso, Frontera, Mazatlan, Santa Rosalia, La Paz, Queretaro, Monterrey, Saltillo, Torreon, and by way of Havana with various stations in the United States. It is expected to prove of great value in advancing the commercial interests of the Republic.

Moral Support for Mexico

A Long Oppressed People Worthy of the Same Consideration the United States Accords to Other Liberty Lovers

Mrs. George D. Shadburne, Jr., in San Francisco "Chronicle"

WHEN one hears on all sides expressions of sympathy for those who are at present involved in the greatest struggle of all history, battling to preserve all of those ideals that embody the great principles of democracy; when one hears and reads the opinions that express a common understanding, a generous fellow feeling for the Russian heroes and martyrs who are spattering the pages of Russian history with their noble blood in order to deliver their people from an excruciating thralldom, and to afford them the privilege of inhaling the breath of liberty and all that goes with this precious gift—one wonders why this common understanding, this sympathy, this fellow-feeling is never extended one foot over the border south of us. One wonders why we, the people of this great American nation, admitted to be the most generous in the whole world, have withheld from our sister Republic what we have accorded to the other struggling nations.

Story Written in Blood

Mexico's bitter and tragical story is written in the blood of thousands of martyrs—martyrs and heroes who died so that they might bequeath to their children and their children's children that for which we are all fighting today—Freedom! Freedom of body, freedom of thought, freedom to develop their country, freedom to educate their people, freedom to break the mental bondage of the poor, who have been saturated with the lesson of submission, humility and obedience for over 400 years! Freedom to let in the blessed light to these dumb-driven masses, who have been so cowed that they were willing to remain cowed! Freedom for their laboring classes, from the stifling peonage under which they have tottered for ages! Freedom to operate their governmental affairs according to their own interpretation of the principles of democracy! Freedom to develop and manage the great industries of their country, for the advantage of the Mexican people! Freedom to enforce the laws which are incorporated in their great Constitution! Freedom to own their country and manage their own affairs, for the Mexicans and by the Mexicans!

Deny Mexico Justice

And yet, there are those, and plenty of them, who deny to Mexico what they proclaim in clarion tones is the just right of other nations. They have even attempted to try to make the Mexicans believe they must change themselves into something else. They must not think with a Mexican mind—they must not feel with a Mexican soul. The Mexicans are proud of their ancestry, proud of their intelligence, proud of their talents, proud of their inherent sentiments, and wish to remain Mexicans. The opposition which has been hurled against the loyal heroes, defenders of "The Reformation," has been appalling and incomprehensible. We are condemning on one side what we defend on another.

Confusion and Discontent

Mexico finds herself in the same condition that the South was after the Civil War. Naturally, confusion and discontent followed—confusion, owing to the various political groups fighting for supremacy, and discontent from among the groups of the defeated. Only, in Mexico's case the conditions have been worse. Outside greedy interests have labored to keep those groups apart, have labored to keep the spark of hatred burning; they don't want the people united; they know that the complete union of the Mexican people means the death knell of the exploiter, of the interferer. But, in spite of all this, Mexico is succeeding; the people are uniting, and it will not be long before they are all bound by the ties of a common suffering, and by the ties of brotherly love. There are those among the defeated who have nobly admitted the terrible wrong which has existed in that country for so many years.

So-Called Prosperity Under Diaz

Many say that never was the country so prosperous as during the administration of Don Porfirio Diaz, but they forget to add that never were so many foreigners prosperous in a foreign country, and never in the history of any nation were a native people more neglected and oppressed.

How long would our laboring classes stand for a wage of one-half of a bit a day (6¼ cents)? Can the American mind grasp or would it countenance such a condition as this? How long would our laboring classes stand being refused the privilege of the ballot? And how long would a decent American public endure such treatment of their people? And I have heard an ex-General of the Porfirio Diaz army say that these unfortunates did not need the vote, that they would not vote if they could, and, furthermore, that they did not understand it. He also made the statement that all the women of this class needed was one dress, one pair of shoes, a little patch around a house (he did not describe that), with a few little trees and a few little vegetables, and no theaters and no movies—that they did not care for anything more, even if offered to them. How long would the daughter of one of our laborers stand for that sort of a life? One dress! One pair of shoes! And no movies! And, furthermore, they were willing to remain in that state of bondage. Will the American mind read between the lines and grasp the spirit of this statement? This General, this man presumably well educated, really is sincere in his belief; he thinks that this is the proper way to take care of the masses. He is simply another version of the system which has controlled that misunderstood country for all these ages!

Branded as Bandits

And yet, when a group of noble, high-minded, educated men demanded a change in their economic life, a change that would bring about a more equitable system of caring for their fellow beings, they were branded as bandits, as thieves, as murderers. Of course, those who were fattening their pocketbooks at the expense of this downtrodden race joined the Mexicans who formed the ring that suffocated the populace and caused them to rise in their might, burst asunder the chains which were strangling the very vitals of their nation and fight to the death for the emancipation of their people.

And now that Victory has crowned their efforts, and they are bending every energy to firmly establish the great principles for which they fought, let us extend to them that same fellow feeling, that same understanding, that same moral support which we are giving to the other nations who are struggling for what Mexico has yearned for and been deprived of all these long, weary years.

Mormons Returning to Chihuahua State

Facilities for Bringing Their Families to Their Old Homes

THE Secretary of State transmitted under a recent date to the Inspectors of the Immigration Service in the Republic the following circular:

"This Bureau is informed that certain Mormons who have returned to the State of Chihuahua, when they became aware of the situation maintained in the region where they lived, returned to the United States for the purpose of bringing their families to the place where they had invested in lands, but were unable to use, for a second time, the passports issued them for coming to our country.

"For the purpose of saving trouble for the Mormons referred to, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs has already instructed Mexican Consuls in North America to the effect that they affix a special note to every passport they may issue to persons found in the condition mentioned, exempting the Inspector from making cancellations required by Circular No. 1965 of this Bureau, dated the fourteenth of last September. At the same time permit me to note that every passport issued by foreign authorities for their respective citizens should be vised by the Mexican Consul nearest the point of departure, without which requisite the document must not be accepted by our immigration officers, since there is danger that some foreigners recognized as enemies of our Government may enter the country to exploit seditious work.

"Communicated to you for your information and in order that you regulate your conduct in conformity with the aforesaid,—I repeat to you my attentive consideration.

"Constitution and Reforms.

"Mexico, February 22, 1918.

"Office of the Chief Secretary, P. Machorro and Narvez."

Canadian and Mexican Trade

Each Country Has Many Products That the Other Needs—
Water Transportation Facilities the Only Obstacle

"I AM glad to see Canadians commencing to display an interest in Mexican commercial possibilities," remarked Edward J. Leveson to a representative of *The Sun*. "There are in that country vast possibilities for the development of a large and lucrative trade. Mexico has many things that we want, and we have many things that she needs. All that now is required to commence to bring some of these commercial benefits to Vancouver is a coastal connection by ships, preferably ships fitted with refrigerator apparatus, so that the splendid tropical fruits of that country can be brought in safely. Of course, the other products of the country, the main articles of commerce, would not require refrigerator protection."

Though reluctant to be interviewed, Mr. Leveson was well informed on economic, commercial and political conditions in Mexico and willing to explain Mexican conditions. He spent many years there before he came to this city, and he is still actively interested in Mexican properties, being in addition to other associations in Mexico a director in the British Columbia-Mexico Co., Ltd., a large development company on the west coast.

Stable Foundation

"The Mexican Government," he continued, "is on a far more stable foundation now than many people realize. President Carranza is fast getting matters into shape. The Constitution of the new Mexican Government is one of the most progressive, and in many respects radical, codes that the world has ever seen. The notable features of it are the new agrarian and labor laws. It contains the best points of the constitutions of the United States and the French republics.

"We on the west coast of the Dominion should extend a warm welcome to Señor Eduardo Soriano Bravo, the newly appointed consul-general of Mexico to Canada," he said.

"Señor Bravo has for some years represented his country as consul at New Orleans, and now he is here in Canada to investigate and encourage the many possibilities of trade between Mexico and ourselves.

"Through some years of internal trouble and dissension, disturbing the economic condition of her territories, Mexico is emerging into a period of reconstruction of her social, financial and commercial conditions; and we feel sure that you will be glad to hear first hand some of the interesting facts in relation thereto which her official representative has to tell us.

Friend of President

"It has been a great pleasure to me personally to meet Señor Bravo, not only in his official capacity, but as a personal friend of the President of Mexico, Señor Carranza, who honored me, through his finance minister, Sr. Lic. Luis Cabrera, with a message to the Premier of Canada last year, assuring Canada of Mexico's adherence to strict neutrality in this period of war—when the press of the United States was hinting at the reverse.

"The British Columbia-Mexico Company, in which I am interested, is developing properties, productive of foodstuffs, on the west coast of Mexico, and we hope in the near future to become pioneers in the resuscitation of trade between the two countries, each of which is capable of supplying the other's wants. We also look forward to the possibility of direct water transportation between Mexico's west coast and our own here of Victoria and Vancouver.

Canada-Mexico Service

Mr. Leveson stated that in his opinion the future trade of Canada with Mexico was made possible by the water route of the Pacific. It should be undertaken with regular scheduled sailings, proper supervision, and thorough organization, through which means only a satisfactory service be established. Every possible credit should be given to the Mexican Government and to Señor Bravo for their efforts now being put forth to develop a Canadian trade. The Mexican Government sincerely desired the development of trade with this country, and in such development lay a promising future for those who went into it. But business negotiations should be carefully considered before definite action is taken.

The company which Mr. Leveson represents is developing agricultural properties on the Southern Pacific Railway on the western seaboard of Mexico near the towns of Mazatlan and Acaponeta. The company has full powers for trade, shipping, manufacture and development, and has spent a large amount of money in development. To show the fertility of the soil there, Mr. Leveson gave an estimate of the 1918 crop production on properties on the west coast. Tomatoes would produce 320 boxes per acre, beans 1600 pounds to the acre, corn 4800 pounds to the acre. Other agricultural products grew in proportion. The exports include silver, gold, copper, rubber, hides, coffee, hardwood, lumber and dye-woods, vanilla, beans, tobacco, cotton-seed meal and cakes, and tropical fruits.

Plenty of Fruit

"There is no reason why Mexico should not supply the whole Pacific coast with tropical fruits," said Mr. Leveson. "In my opinion that is one of the greatest commercial openings to be found in a country which offers more inducement to capital at the present time than any part of the Americas. The fruit could be shipped up the coast from the west of Mexico and landed right here in Vancouver in much less time and at much less cost than tropical fruit is bought to-day.

"With the quieting down of the rebellion there will be the greatest boom in land on this continent. The country will, I believe, settle up rapidly, trade and commerce will flourish, the wonderful crop-growing propensities of the land will be exploited to the full, and the ground will be mined more assiduously than ever. I anticipate a very great future for Mexico."

Mr. Leveson called special attention to the improved credit and promised banking facilities under the present Mexican Government.—*Vancouver (B. C.) Daily Sun.*

OIL

I am older than thou!
Before you were, I was.
Through countless ages have I been conserved
by Mother Nature.
I lay inert and unchanging,
Yet power within me lay!
Yes, power to dispel darkness alone at first!
Then great and mobile heat was developed
from me!
I served the housewife midst her labors in the
kitchen!
Then I leapt to the side of the master I had
made!
I drove him first from penury to plutocracy!
Then I drove him winging along his chariots
of speed,
And I too am that who has conquered the air!
And likewise have I conquered the deeps!
Man loves me like a lavish mistress!
I need but hint my presence,
And, lo! leagues and hemispheres does he
travel in search of me!
For he knows that always am I alluring and
enchanting!
Even though betimes deceiving and hope-
deferring,
Mistress am I of thousands of masters!
My first smile is as the rainbow!
And how eagerly grasp they that faintest rain-
bow hue!
For its deepening smile lures them down to
me!
Down to the depths of earth,
To encourage its alluring charm,
I touch them and soon Midas, Crœsus and
Monte Cristo of fabled fame are fleshed
alive!
My vanguard are braver than the crusaders of
old!
My troopers more valiant than Cæsar's
legions!
And, perhaps, of greater multitude!
Master have I none; yet mistress am I of
armies!
To-day, cupped in my palm, hold I the destiny
of dictators!
I add to science's learning!
Distances I destroy!
Heights I scale!
Seas I ride, their depths I defy!
Industry I encourage!
Adventure I reward!
Patience I immortalize!
Fickle though am I!
Sinews and brawn I command!
Brain and energy watch my beck!
Before you were, I was!
Yet ever at your side find you me!
I am oil! —*Unknown.*

The Truth About Mexico

A Californian Opinion That What That Country Needs Is to Be Let Entirely Alone

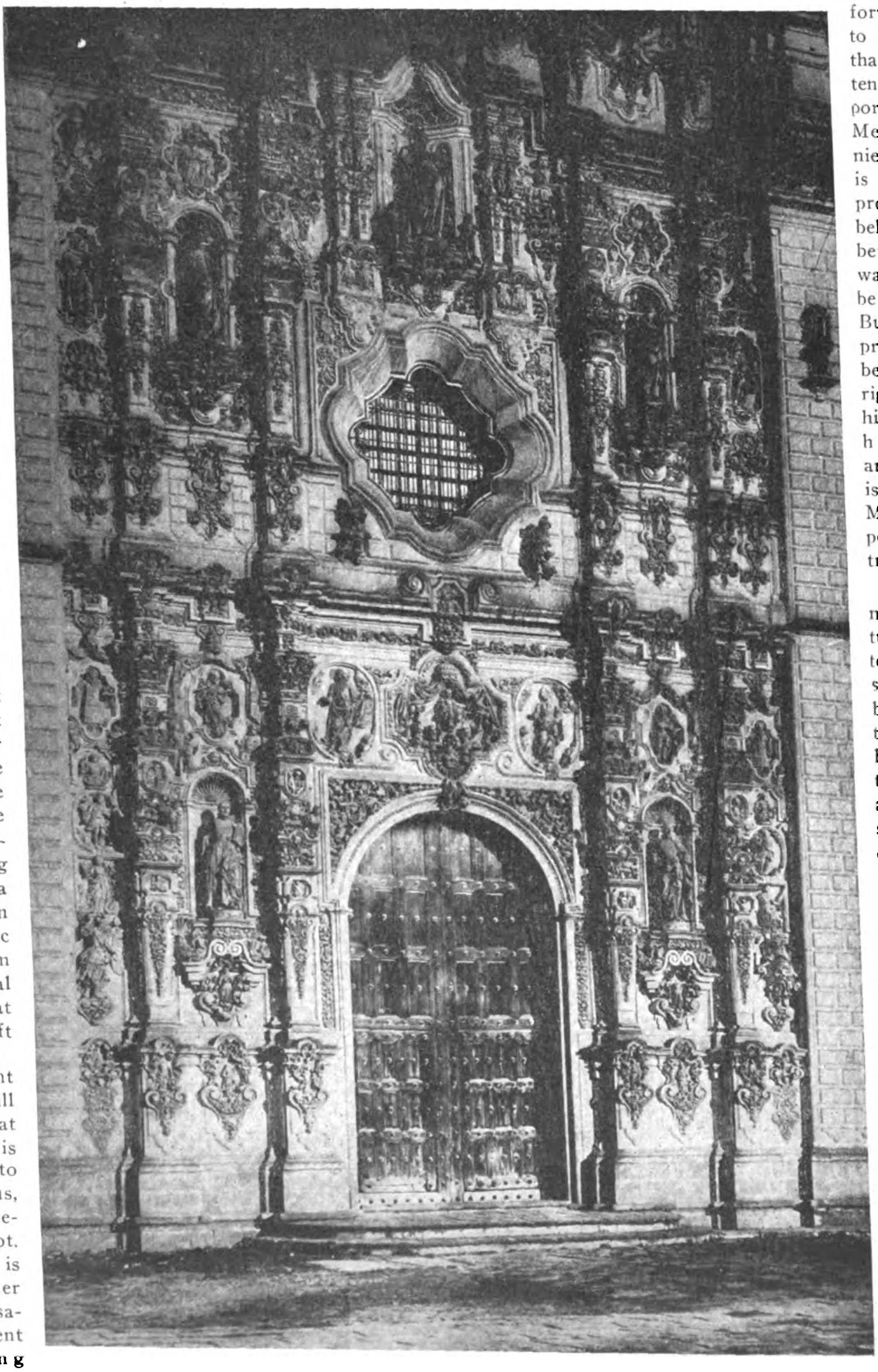
AFTER great tribulation, it has become apparent that the Carranza Government is an enlightened Government, in possession of adequate power fully to restore and maintain order in the country, and all that is necessary to enable it to accomplish those purposes is for the governments and people of other countries to let Mexico alone.

There is still some banditry in Mexico, which is none of our business, except in so far as it may be our duty to ascertain to what extent it is inspired and supported by the money of Americans, to locate any of our citizens who are or have been guilty of such practices and inflict suitable punishment upon them.

The fundamental cause of the troubles which have existed in Mexico is the attempt to perpetuate in that country the ancient Spanish system, under which the lords were the owners of all the lands and the people who tilled them dependents. This feeling was accentuated by a system of taxation which derived public revenues mainly from taxation of personal effort, while the great land holdings were left untaxed.

That system ought to be changed, and will be. To the extent that the national faith is involved in respect to grants and concessions, it ought to be and presumably will be kept. If land once granted is expropriated, the owner should have compensation based on present income-producing value, which in most cases would be trifling. One great exception is in respect to land found to contain petroleum. In those cases the Government intends rightly to protest the public interest by appropriate taxation.

But there are American landowners in Mexico, and foreign exploiters of petroleum deposits, who most strenuously object to any change of Mexican institutions which will impair their power to exploit the Mexican people forever. It is believed in Mexico that it is from these foreigners, and especially from Americans, that the greater part of the money has come to maintain banditry. Names are freely mentioned, and if our own Government has any desire to ascertain whether reports of American contributions to Mexican banditry are true it can get "clews" from almost any one on the street.



Main Entrance to the Church of Tepozatlan, State of Mexico

There are obvious efforts to create hostility to Mexico by reports that the Government intends to prohibit the export of Mexican oil. The Mexican Government denies such intention, and is plainly as willing to profit by selling to any belligerent as we were before we entered the war. And nobody could be more willing than that. But if Mexico should prohibit exports it would be as much within its rights as we are in prohibiting the export of hundreds of things, among them gold which is the property of the Mexican Government or people incautiously entrusted to our keeping.

If any American does not like Mexican institutions, or Mexican customs or people, he should stay out of Mexico. Nobody asks him to go there. If he goes there, he should be prepared to treat the Mexican people and institutions with the same respect which we expect from Mexicans visiting us. And if he adopts Mexico as a permanent residence he should assimilate himself into the Mexican life just as we expect immigrants to be assimilated into American life.

An American who goes into Mexico and puts on airs, pretending superiority and exhibiting contempt of those about him will deserve, and probably get, about the same treatment which a Mexican would get by expressing contempt for America on the streets of San Franciso.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

The collections of duties on postal packages entering Mexico from the United States reaches a total of $60,000 annually.

Regarding Foreign Trade

Mexican Chamber of Commerce Talks to American Manufacturers, Exporters and Importers

YOU are keeping more foreign trade. Mexico is your nearest neighbor. When the revival comes here it will bring great trade activity, and it is up to Americans to to hold their present lead. Mr. John Barrett estimates that after Mexico's troubles are settled her foreign business will increase near fourfold in ten years. Her oil production has increased fiftyfold since 1907. The vast resources of the country are scarcely touched. If you are already engaged in this field the American Chamber of Commerce can help you. If you are not, you should thus get in touch with the field and so prepare for the future.

Mexico is seventeen and a half times the size of Cuba and infinitely greater in resources. Cuba's products are limited to tropical, chiefly sugar and tobacco. Mexico has all these and also metals, oil, timber, corn, wheat, live stock —everything—as possible products. It is three times as large as all of Central America and the West Indies combined.

The European nations must get from abroad raw materials for manufacturing after the war, and must seek foreign trade. Mexico, with its boundless resources and favorable position as to transportation, is especially important. German capital even now is being invested here. The United States has deep interest in the increase of the important volume of trade that already exists between the two countries. This will help to solve other problems and will add to the prosperity and good relations of both countries, as is shown so strikingly in the case of Cuba and the United States, under much less favorable natural conditions and importance.

Church Front in City of Puebla

The Americans living and doing business in Mexico are aroused to this crisis. We are cultivating friendly trade relations in Mexico with the Mexicans. This is for your good as well as ours. We ask you to support us by becoming members of this Chamber of Commerce. Its usefulness will depend on the breadth of its support and influence. Its management here is in the hands of American business men like yourselves. It is strictly non-political. It is the practical channel for the work that is to be done here.

Through this membership you will at trifling expense be brought and kept in close touch with this field, which is of far greater importance to your interest than you have realized.

Yours truly,

AMERICAN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE OF
MEXICO, S. C. L.
S. W. RIDER, *President.*
C. B. PARKER,
Acting Secretary.

Reason vs. Fanaticism

If you were to discuss Mexico with many Americans you would find no difficulty in obtaining the prompt verdict that "Mexico is no good" and that "Mexico ought to be abolished." If you were to discuss it further you would find from these persons that "Mexico has been the scourge of humanity in the Western Hemisphere," and that "it never will be worth a continental until the United States shall have seized it and made it a place modeled after the plan of the United States, in type and kind of government."

Should you seek further information from persons rendering these off-hand remedies for the Mexican Nation you would find that they never had seen Mexico; that they had never lived in the country for which they had a remedy, and you further would learn that they had never even so much as read the history of the Mexican Nation. In fact, your informants would be persons who could inform you nothing about the industrial, military or political history of the country that has had so much trouble within the past ten years. Yet they would tell Mexico how to manage itself and what is the matter with it.

If you should read Professor Frederic Starr's book telling of his recent 26 years of life and study of Mexico, where he spent most

(*Concluded on page* 24)

Mexican Byways and Highways

Scenes and Experiences Away From the Usual Paths of Travelers and Writers

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

II

On the Desert

THE "lure of the desert" has already been referred to more or less casually and merely as an interlude while discussing another subject. This chapter will be given up entirely to it, and deservedly so, since so far as Northern Mexico is concerned, nine-tenths of its area comes properly enough under this designation as popularly conceived—with reservations that will be noted. Yet the reader must ever bear in mind one thing: while his geographical studies in his youth (if he be past the fifty mark or thereabouts) included of course a variety of information about deserts, alleged and otherwise, they also included a most amazing amount of misinformation, insomuch that few who have had no personal experience actually know what a desert is in reality. In the writer's boyhood, and even later, for example, the "Great American Desert" of the geographies, covering a large portion of what is now Western Kansas, Oklahoma, Northern Texas, Southern Colorado and contiguous territory, was a reality to the school pupil and to the adult as well. Yet now it is one of the most fertile and productive portions of the country, in great part. It was to us, however, as the dictionary and the geography alike declared, "a sandy, verdureless, waterless waste." And in our childish eyes we could see those sandy wastes—resembling to our imagination nothing so much as the sandy dunes of Coney Island and Rockaway Beach of the sixties and seventies.

It is true, there are portions of all deserts that are of this character, but they are limited by comparison with the extensive areas that are not sandy and without vegetation. This is true of the so-called deserts of Mexico, just as it is true of the deserts of the Southwest—the Colorado and the Mojave deserts of California, those of Utah and Nevada, of New Mexico and Arizona. The deserts of California especially, regarded once, and not so long since either, as of a hopelessly irredeemable character, have become one of the most fruitful and productive portions of that wonderfully fruitful and productive commonwealth. One who has never visited the Imperial Valley of California can realize that not so many years ago a man who ventured into it without adequate provision of water, took his life in his hand, and scores upon scores have lost their lives because of their temerity and their ignorance. Any man who was so visionary, so reckless, so regardless of what was thought to be the truth as to suggest that it held almost unlimited possibilities, or any possibilities at all, in the way of agricultural development, was regarded as little short of insane. As indeed was actually regarded the man who devoted the best years of his life to the effort to convince Congress that the Colorado "desert" was so only in name and that untold wealth lay dormant and awaiting development in its dry, dreary wastes. Unfortunately he died just as his dreams were on the point of realization and did not live to see the desert literally washed off the map in the only manner that washing can be done—with water.

So, too, with the deserts of Mexico. The traveler by rail through the northern tier of States and some of those immediately adjoining on the south can scarcely be blamed for fancying that by far the greater portion of that section is of a hopelessly desert character. The vast stretches of uninhabited, uncultivated territory, with the scattering settlements and small areas under cultivation, are to him proof positive of the desert character of this region. The presence of isolated fruitful areas of limited extent ought, it is true, to show him his error, but it has the contrary effect. They ought to show him, as his eyes ought to convince him by observing the character of the soil and the natural vegetation thereon, with enough of the soil clinging to his person to permit of a thorough analysis of its character, that the only thing lacking in order to change the desert into something more useful is the same thing that he lacks for personal comfort and cleanliness while traveling through this same desert—water.

Wherever a spring is found and tapped, wherever a mountain stream is led into the valley, wherever an embankment is thrown up and a "tanque" or reservoir formed for the conservation of the torrential rainfall (for though rain falls but seldom on the desert, when it does fall it comes in volume), there the refreshing contrast of growing crops—of wheat and corn and alfalfa, of fruit tree and vineyard, of melon and the entire wide range of food plants—affords a convincing demonstration that absence of readily obtainable water is not to be taken as proof positive that a given region is of the same character as the fancied "desert" of schoolboy days of the middle of the last century, and even later.

Come with me on a trip a hundred miles and more into the desert region to the west and northwest of Cuatro Cienegas, and see what it is really like.

Camp outfit, food, blankets in abundance (for it is cold on the desert at night, no matter what the month), and, of more importance than all else water bags, are fastened securely on a light vehicle drawn by a couple of little but wiry mules—the only animals fit for desert travel, except of course their progenitor, the burro. Either of the long-eared tribe will travel day after day and keep in good condition on a minimum of food and water, when a horse would die under like conditions before the distance was half covered.

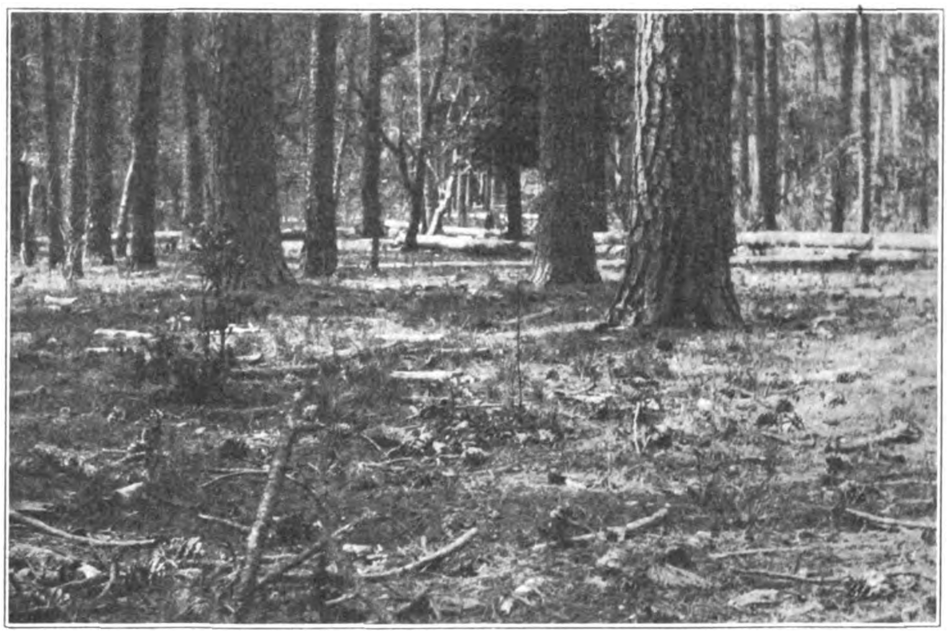
We leave Cuatro Cienegas as soon after sunrise as possible and strike directly west toward the precipitous defile that traverses the mountain range which separates the desert from the fertile, well-watered valley below. Past gardens, vineyards, orchards, alfalfa and grain fields we drive, all sustained by the water of a brawling torrent which has its source full-fledged in a spring at the head of the defile. The road is steep and for three hours we crawl up the cañon with its perpendicular walls of limestone, cave-filled cliffs, suggestive of wild animals that we know are hiding therein, its road deep with the dust of countless ore and guayule teams—for this is the only outlet for a vast region rich in mineral wealth, as are most deserts, all of the products of which must perforce be handled over this highway. Some one has said that Nature secreted her greatest wealth on the desert, in order to discourage men from this search. It is true as to the marvelous mineral wealth of all deserts, almost without exception, but its location there seems to serve rather as a stimulus than a deterrent for human endeavor, and not a few of the most productive mines in the world are located in remote desert regions.

Finally the last steep grade is climbed and we come out into a great open valley, perhaps fifteen or twenty miles in width, walled by lofty mountain ranges on either side, whose topmost summits are covered with pine and cedar, making a most picturesque effect against the deep blue of the sky, though at this distance they look like stunted shrubs instead of the lofty trees that they are in actuality. These soon disappear, however, and the mountains to the west are gaunt and almost verdureless.

Our objective point is Ocampo, over forty miles away—a long day's journey for any one, no matter how well equipped in the way of horse or mule flesh, saddle or vehicle. In all this long stretch there is water at only one place—"El Oso" (the bear)—a little green spot in the dry, dusty valley marking its location. It seems to be but a short distance, but that is one of the peculiarities of the desert—one who is not well acquainted is sure to underestimate at least half. The road is fully a quarter of a mile in width. At all events an area of that extent has been cut into ruts and beds of dust and gullies by the constant traffic, and there is small choice. The dust is impalpable, flour like, is from six inches to a foot in depth, and the least impact of foot or wheel brings it in clouds into the traveler's face. In the morning the breeze comes up the cañon from the warmer valleys of the lower level and just serves to keep the clouds of choking pulverization with us as we move slowly along. It is useless to seek to escape. One wagon track may seem less dusty than another, but when we try it we wish we had not. For awhile we are more or less disposed to make ourselves uncomfortable by carping at a condition that is unavoidable, but finally when we see that nothing can prevail against it, we settle down to profound apathy, keep our mouths shut for two reasons, and travel in silent misery. The sun soon becomes hot, hotter, hottest; the perspiration trickles down our faces, making furrows in the heavy coating of earth. Our lips become parched and cracked, we make frequent requisition on the water bags—though when we become more thoroughly "desert wise" we refrain from the use of water except in sparing quantities. We look ahead, as well as the cloud of dust will permit, with longing eyes toward the little cluster of trees at El Oso, the only really green thing in sight. The desert vegetation is all gray and earth colored, though it may have been green once upon a time.

The long hours drag wearily, as do the mules, while it seems as though instead of decreasing the distance and coming nearer, the oasis keeps getting farther and farther away.

But at last the weary, thirsty animals catch a whiff of the water—they can be depended upon to do this. On the desert give a mule his head and he will find water if any there be. Cattle too will do this, and so will horses after a fashion, but first of all in the possession of what may be called "water sense"—the ability to sense water at an unbelievable distance and when there is no outward indication of it to the human eye or nostril—is the much-despised long-eared tribe. A mule or a burro will detect it miles away.



Among the Pine Forests of Mexico

At El Oso is a "tanque" (pronounced with two syllables if you please), supplied from a spring in the mountains many miles away, and brought down in a rock-lined rushing stream in an artificial water course. Here we halt, let the mules drink and rest, the while we alight, stretch our cramped limbs, eat a lunch liberally seasoned with dust, wash the earth from our throats, and then resume our journey. The afternoon is a repetition of the morning, only more so if possible, and it is dusk as we pull into the quaint little village of Ocampo, the last settlement of size for two hundred miles north, west or south, and seek food, shelter and rest in the house of a friend.

There still remain sixty miles of desert travel before our objective point is reached, with water at but two points in the intervening space. Travel on the desert is always regulated by the water. No other consideration enters into the calculation of each day's journey. Life depends upon it, and those who affect to despise this consideration, as many have, seldom survive to tell their folly.

So we decide to devote two days to the remainder of the journey, as one watering place is about thirty miles out. In the morning we take time to walk about the town, note the gigantic hedges of naturally spineless cactus that encircle garden and vineyard, obtain some of the choice fruit that is grown here, drink of the cold, clear water from the mountain spring that has been led down in a rivulet, fill our water bags therefrom, and are ready for another day's discomfort.

We make a leisurely start, after we have halted in the midst of breakfast, stepped away from the table, chairs in hand, in order to permit our mules to be led through the dining room from the back door and out into the street through the front one—just a common, every day occurrence, owing to the peculiar architecture of many houses, especially in the country. All day we move slowly, again in a blinding, stifling, suffocating cloud of dust, this time impregnated with alkali of a sort that makes the head ache, the eyes smart and burn, and the lips cake and crack. In the afternoon there is a little relief, as the desert breeze strikes in our faces and drives the dust away momentarily, but as a rule we have it with us at all times in quantity. The mules can seldom move more rapidly than a walk, and occasionally we alight and walk a mile or two to relieve their burden.

Late in the afternoon the wind increases in velocity and strength, and blows harsh and cold in our faces, as it sweeps on its way to the warmer valleys at a lower level, for all this time we are climbing, climbing, imperceptibly it is true, but nevertheless it is a constant uphill pull. Just before sunset we come to a "tanque" of the usual character, where is a cluster of little adobe buildings belonging to a goat and cattle herder. On the hillside above stands the almost invariable little chapel found at nine-tenths of the haciendas in the country—for the women refuse resolutely to live in these out-of-the-way places unless provision be made for their religious faith. The single building used as a residence is crowded with the family and their friends who are traveling and seek shelter from the blast, and we essay to make camp under a gaunt palma. We gather a little brush and try to build a fire, in order to make coffee and cook some bacon, as well as to warm our benumbed fingers and shivering bodies, but the gale is so strong that it is well nigh impossible to strike so much as a match, and we crouch shivering and hoping the fuel will blaze. Finally comes the mayordomo of the little ranch (they have evidently been watching our efforts from a window), and tells us that the women, whose especial care and pride is the chapel, have noted our uncomfortable plight, and have sent him to say that if we will not molest the altar or any of the religious objects in the sacred edifice, we are welcome to take shelter there for the night. They must have had some unpleasant experiences with foreigners or others in the past, or they would not have placed this injunction upon us as a preliminary, but we gladly assure them that we have nothing but sentiments of the utmost respect for their holy of holies, and that we would greatly appreciate the privilege of taking shelter therein. Our manner seemingly pleases the women, for after awhile the mayordomo comes again to the chapel bringing an earthen dish filled with a most delectable concoction, a combination of fresh eggs, cheese and green peppers cooked together. It was hot, but the weather was cold and we were too, and the food went to the right spot and warmed us thoroughly. If there was a morsel left it was surely not my fault. Then we wrapped ourselves in our blankets, laid down on our folding cots and slept warmly and comfortably until morning. Nor would these poor people accept a single cent in way of compensation for our entertainment.

Next day was a repetition of the previous one. There was the same ever-present blinding cloud of alkali-impregnated dust, the same slow progress, the same unavoidable discomfort. Again it was near sundown when we at last drove up to the hacienda of La Fortuna, our objective point, the center of operations of the guayule gatherers. It was a forlorn group of dilapidated adobe huts and a great "tanque" of water. We had long since exhausted our water bags and hastened to the pond, though with more or less misgiving when we noted the dozens of mules, horses and cattle that were standing knee deep in the water and mud. We dipped some of the fluid up. It was tan colored and odoriferous to a degree! It was far from inviting, even to a thirsty man. But it was wet and we were dry, oh so dry!—also dirty, oh so dirty! So we gave our scruples a place in the background, dismissed our prejudices and ideas regarding germs and such like, and drank the water, washed in it, and made the best of it. We then concluded that if it were boiled and coffee made of it, it might not be necessary to hold our nostrils while imbibing. But we soon found that boiling only made it worse and more so! The steam carried all the unpleasant odors directly into our nostrils and we found it more difficult to drink the coffee than the straight water.

However, the desert is the desert, water is water, and a really thirsty (and dirty) man knows no scruples.

Next morning we drive out to the guayule camps—that being the real objective of our journey, in order to disburse several thousand dollars among the shrub gatherers. We reached the main camp about ten o'clock, paid the men for their work, then after lunch started for another some twenty miles away across country with no road, only a mountain peak to guide us. I suggested that some food be taken from the headquarters camp, but my companion, who was the "boss," overruled me, said there was certain to be an abundance of food at the stopping place, and so we very unwisely pulled out. It was dark, cold and dreary, the perpetual desert night wind blowing a gale, and glad we were when we saw the glowing camp fires in the distance, after having lost our way repeatedly during the afternoon. But when we had alighted and brought up the subject of supper, we found there was just one article that might be called food in the camp—some bran, as also some tallow rendered from goat's flesh. Not a mouthful of anything else! They had been waiting for the paymaster in order to send to Ocampo for a supply of food. But we were hungry. So a lot of bran was stirred in water to the consistency of dough, put into a frying pan with some decidedly odoriferous goat tallow, and cooked on the camp fire. "Coffee" made from roasted bran was also brewed and consumed, and then we went to "rest."

Two more days were spent in different camps, paying off, but at the others there was food of a kind—mostly tortillas and frijoles. An Indian chanced by from the mountains with the carcass of a fat freshly killed buck on his burro, and was glad to accept a dollar and a half for it. Then we feasted!

It was twelve days from the time we had left Cuatro Ciénegas before we again came in sight of the valley. We struck the stream at the head of the canyon near the town about noon and halted. It may be possible for travelers to get dustier and dirtier than we were. But I doubt it. We quickly stripped, laid down in the shallow water and literally wallowed in it, thus ridding ourselves of most of the grime of the long desert journey. But one who has never indulged in such a holiday cannot have any idea of what it really was.

The reader may perhaps fancy that after such an experience one would say "Never again." Not so. As soon as the weariness had worn itself off, the desire for another trip desert-ward came back fresh and strong, and inside of another six weeks, I took just another such trip, and am ready to take one now! (At 65!)

Not much so far about the "lure of the desert!"

On the contrary, the personal experiences related might well be supposed to have been intended as a deterrent. But if that were the object they would, as they easily could, have been made far worse. Purposely the discomforts and dangers of travel in desert regions have not been accentuated, not exaggerated. For much more of the minutiæ of discomfort might have been cited. Enough has been given however to demonstrate that desert travel at its best has very little of the "picnic" connected therewith. Just enough has been given to demonstrate that there is a vast difference between desert travel in a Pullman and the same kind of travel behind a mule team. A decided difference!

Perhaps one of the principal lures of the desert is the absolute purity and "cleanness" of the atmosphere. It differs too from the purity and greater or less "cleanness" of rural atmosphere anywhere within the range of human habitation. By comparison with the atmosphere of the city or town, that of the country, it is true, is pure and clean. But by comparison with the air of the desert—well, there is no comparison. To one who has passed his life amid the smoke and dust and countless odors and scenes of life in populous centers, there is something inexpressibly charming in a region where the air has never been contaminated through human agency or by human contact. Where it is fresh, pure, sweet and invigorating as it has been from the foundation of the world. One inhales deep draughts of it—life giving drafts—for there is no other such healer of infected lungs, no such curer of wounds, as well as ailments of many kinds, as the pure, dry, hot, desiccated and desiccating air of the desert! The worst flesh wound heals by "first intention" without trouble. If there were anything prior to "first intention" it would be found on the desert. Carcasses of animals exposed to it dry and do not decay. One can hang a quarter of fresh beef and it will remain sweet and appetizing for a week or ten days—until it is consumed. One afflicted with tuberculosis can absolutely and actually sense the healing process, if he be so minded, as he opens his mouth and throat and draws into his enfeebled lungs to their utmost capacity the health of the desert. Literally the desert winds carry healing on their wings. Many and many a consumptive who would long since have "gone over the range" had he not sought the desert, has it to thank for a long and useful life.

And then in the mornings when the dew is on the vegetation, or after a rainfall when every growing thing is saturated with moisture, who can describe the exquisite aromatic odors that laden the breeze? For some reason many if not most of the desert plants are intensely charged with such potentialities, which are liberated and demonstrated most freely when saturated with moisture. The resinous, balsamic odors of the guayule and a dozen other growths are so penetrating, so satisfying, so alluring, that one who has once sensed them longs to return to the spot where they can be enjoyed to their fullest. Inhaling this delicious combination of odors is as invigorating as a draught of champagne—far more so, since there are no unpleasant after effects.

Then there is a host of bright-hued bloom—cactus, mariola, and what not—all contributing to the perfume of the atmosphere, to the charm of the experience, to the lure of the desert.

The vast vacant spaces, untouched and unspoiled by human kind, are another and not the least potent feature of the lure of the desert. There is a charm about being in a spot where no man has trod, no man has defiled the air, that is clean and sweet just as it left Nature's hand. Places that gave home to prehistoric races, that have been the centers of habitation for centuries, that are filled with evidences and remains of human handiwork—all have their interest, even their charm for some. But what so charming, so overwhelmingly attractive as the great sweeping uninhabited plains and valleys, the hills and mountains, that are uncontaminated, that have no tradition, no history, no trace of human occupation? We are treading the soil for the first time. The animals, perhaps even the most timid birds, are looking for the first time on human beings—or if not the first time, at all events the sight is so rare that they have no fear. They stand and look at you with curiosity but without fear. They are living the lives Nature intended them to live; they have little or no conception of the existence of other animals that kill for the very lust of killing—only the human animal does that—or if they have that conception from some experience, the appearance of a human being arouses no such sentiment.

And this is another of the lures of the desert!

And then there is the silence, the unchangeableness, over it all! A silence unbroken save by the voice of Nature since the very foundation of the world itself. While the rest of the world has rocked and reeked with the handiwork of man, has been changed beyond recognition, while nations have risen and fallen, while cities have been builded and have gone to ruin, while countless changes have taken place, here in the wide desert there has been no change. Nature has gone about her work serene, dignified, undisturbed. Silent, noiseless, changeless—the desert has sat here and seen the world shift and change and turned upside down. Here all is quiet, calm, changeless and unchanging. Here all is just as it was when it left the hand of the Creator—aeons in the past.

And night on the desert! Who can describe it? You make your camp fire, cook and eat your supper, then wrap yourself in your blankets and lie down on the warm ground, watching the heavens. Sleep will not come, no matter how weary you are. Never did the azure dome above present so attractive an appearance. Surely the stars are brighter and more numerous, surely the moon never shone with such serene splendor or sailed so majestically through the sky as out here away from man and his works and in the *clean* air of the desert. Moon and stars somehow or other seem nearer—they *are* nearer. They *must be* in these wild places of the world.

And while one lies there he becomes conscious of a singular feeling. Away a couple of miles to the east is a lofty range of mountains—gaunt, bare, their flanks exposed for

(*Concluded on page* 24)

Tomatoes on the West Coast

American Consul Chapman Gives Some Interesting Facts Regarding a Profitable Winter Crop

THE present is the fourth year devoted to the production of tomatoes in the Mazatlan consular district for the export trade. Four years ago an enterprising Mexican woman who has agricultural lands whose soil is suitable for the growth of tomatoes conceived the idea of exporting tomatoes to the United States, and planted a trial crop, which proved to be a success and caused a large number of others to take advantage the following year of the ready market in the United States for all they could produce. During the third year, 1917, there were 300 cars of tomatoes exported, and this year will afford about an equal quantity.

Losses Due to Inferior Seed

It was hoped by the former producers and the several new ones who engaged in this enterprise last autumn to have a much larger crop this year, but unfortunately much of the seed, all of which was purchased of firms in the United States, was inferior or ill adapted to local soil and climatic conditions, resulting in an appreciable loss not only to the growers here, but to the consumers in the United States.

To overcome this loss in the future, the producers contemplate making more careful selection of seed, if possible, in the future, and it is desirable from obvious viewpoints that American seedsmen supplying Mexican producers should employ every reasonable means to furnish suitable seed.

Some attempt was made last autumn by an American distributing house to introduce good seed in order to increase the yield and quality of the tomato in this section, which they realized would accrue to their advantage owing to the large demand due to early harvest; but it appears that most growers had already purchased their stock of seed.

Soil Suitable for Tomato Production

Only the river valleys and lowlands, where the soil is the most fertile and natural moisture is present or irrigation is possible, are now employed in the production of tomatoes. There remain, however, large areas of land of this character not yet in cultivation, but which will no doubt now be taken advantage of gradually by the Mexican owners who are aware of the satisfactory results which others have obtained. Some irrigation is necessary in almost all cases, because the seed is not planted until after the rainy season ends, about November 1st, and the last of the crop is harvested about the 1st of May—long before the rainy season begins, toward the last of June.

A Winter Crop Advantageous to United States

The tomato crop in this consular district is really a winter crop, the harvest of which begins early in the month of January, quite some weeks before the early and larger spring crops from Southern regions of the United States are ready for the market.

The crop is moved to the United States over the Southern Pacific Railroad of Mexico, which skirts the west coast of Mexico for a distance of 828 miles south from Nogales, Ariz., where it connects at the international boundary line with the Southern Pacific Railway of the United States and where custom entries are made allowing the cars to proceed freely to various destinations in the United States.

Yield, Size and Quality—Methods of Shipping

The percentage of yield and the size and quality of the tomato produced here compares favorably with those grown in the United States, and growers and commission men are now perfecting the packing and handling, so that these goods reach the consumer in a good state. During the past three years injudicious selections and less careful handling caused some losses which experience now enables the interested parties to overcome.

There is a local loss of about 30 per cent of the entire crop, leaving only about 70 per cent available for shipment when selections are complete. The yield averages about 12,000 pounds per acre.

The tomatoes are packed in wooden crates or boxes imported from the United States for the purpose. Each crate holds about 25 to 30 pounds, buyers insisting upon the latter weight. These are shipped in refrigerator cars holding 800 to 1000 crates, but it is not necessary to ice the cars until about the first of March, the weather being sufficiently cool in January and February to keep the tomatoes from the beginning to the end of the route without ice.

American Tomato Planter Being Introduced

A local firm handling a general line of American-made farming implements and machinery has on exhibition an American-made machine for planting tomato seed, just recently received, which it believes will command a sale among several of the larger producers on account of the economy and efficiency which it appears will be effected by the use of this machine.

Yaquis Are Being Quelled

Gen. Plutarco Elias Calles, Governor of the State of Sonora, and who is at the head of the forces operating against the "Bronco" Yaquis, reports that the principal portion of the rebellious faction of the tribe has been broken up, and that only a few small bands now remain under arms. These are in the depths of the mountains, but are being pursued with energy, and it will be a matter of but a brief period before the last vestiges of trouble will have disappeared. Except for the remote region referred to, the entire State is in a normal condition and mining, agriculture and other industries are being pursued in peace and with success. Crops of all kinds promise to be large, the climatic conditions having been most favorable.

GRIN!

If you're up against a bruiser and you're getting knocked about—
Grin!
If you're feeling pretty groggy and you're licked beyond a doubt—
Grin!
Don't let him see you're funking, let him know with every clout,
Though your face is battered to a pulp, your blooming heart is stout;
Just stand upon your pins until the beggar knocks you out—
And Grin!
This life's a bally battle, and the same advice holds true
Of Grin!
If you're up against it badly, then it's only one on you,
So Grin!
If the future's black as thunder, don't let people see you're blue
Just cultivate a cast-iron smile of joy the whole day through:
If they call you "Little Sunshine," wish that they'd no troubles, too—
You may Grin!
Rise up in the morning with the will that, smooth or rough,
You'll Grin.
Sink to sleep at midnight, and although you're feeling tough,
Yet Grin!
There's nothing gained by whining, and you're not that kind of stuff;
You're a fighter from away back, and you won't take a rebuff;
Your trouble is that you don't know when you've had enough—
Don't give in!
If Fate should down you, just get up and take another cuff;
You may bank on it that there's no philosophy like bluff,
And Grin!

—From "The Spell of the Yukon," by Robert W. Service.

EDUCATIONAL NOTES

The new Normal School for the training of teachers has been opened in a suitable edifice in the City of Mexico, with a large attendance of those seeking to engage in educational work.

An industrial school for young ladies has been established in the city of Vera Cruz, in addition to the large number of educational institutions already in existence in that place.

The Governor of the State of Queretaro reports extensive additions to the educational system and a general condition of prosperity. The coming crops of grain promise to be the largest ever harvested. The entire State is in order except for a few bands of marauders, in whose pursuit and extermination aeroplanes are being used with good results.

Instructions have been issued for the opening of the agricultural experimental school which has been established at the Rancho San Jacinto, in the valley of Mexico. Alumni from that school will be sent to various portions of the Republic for the purpose of giving instruction in the most modern methods.

The Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the city of San Luis Potosi has established a library for the use of its members and for the dissemination of the latest scientific and commercial information that is available.

Railroad Development

Revival of the Durango to Mazatlan Enterprise—Other Plans in Various Portions of the Republic

DIRECTOR GENERAL PESCADOR of the Constitutionalist Railway lines has under consideration the construction of a railway connecting the city of Durango with the port of Mazatlan, on the west coast, on the lines of survey made many years ago under Collis P. Huntington. Eighty miles of this line have already been built west from Durango, but the remainder is in a mountainous region, where some twenty tunnels of various lengths and thirty large bridges will be required. It is estimated that the cost of the line will be some $15,000,000, but that the expenditure would be warranted by the opening of a rich agricultural, mining and timber region.

Official announcement is made that with the restoration of order on the west coast and the continued operation of trains upon the lines of the Southern Pacific Railway from Nogales to the State of Nayarit, it is proposed to resume work on the extension of the line in question in order that connection may be made with Guadalajara and thence with Mexico City and other points in the Republic. There is a gap between the city of Tepic and the town of San Marcos, in Jalisco, that is the only missing link, involving a section of mountain construction of difficult character, though of comparatively few miles in extent.

Work on the new railway line from Canitas to the city of Durango was completed on the last day of March, exactly in accordance with the plans of the engineers in charge of construction. The new line will be opened with appropriate ceremonies under the auspices of President Carranza. A very wealthy agricultural and mineral section is thus opened to development which had been retarded from lack of transportation facilities.

The Development Company of the Southeast, a Yucatan organization which is engaged in various important public works, has asked permission to construct a line of railway directly connecting Mexico City with Merida and other points in that State, as well as various important places in Campeche, Tabasco and Vera Cruz. Such a line is greatly needed and would command an extensive business.

The Vera Cruz and Isthmus and the Pan-American railways continue to transport large quantities of corn, beans, sugar and other food articles from Pacific Coast ports into the interior of the Republic, where they are needed to relieve the temporary food shortage. All the railroads in that portion of the country are being operated regularly and satisfactorily.

The Constitutionalist Railways have recently paid the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway the sum of $170,000 American gold for rolling stock belonging to that company, but now in Mexico, and which was needed for continual use in that country. Much of this was destroyed during the Revolution.

It is proposed to establish a colony for railway employes at Orizaba, in the State of Vera Cruz, that point being the location of a division headquarters, shops, etc. Lands for cultivation are to be allotted and houses erected for the men and their families.

The Constitutionalist Railways have received a number of sleeping cars from the United States, which will be put on the through trains, thus remedying the scarcity of such vehicles that has been the rule for some time, owing to the unsettled conditions.

The railway line from Guadalajara to Manzanillo is reported to be in perfect condition and traffic is uninterrupted and regular. In one week 120 carloads of foodstuffs were dispatched by this route to various portions of the Republic.

Orders have been issued for holding stringent examinations of all classes of railway employes, especially those intrusted with the running of trains, in order to reduce the danger of injury to passengers from ignorance or incompetency.

A company with Mexican capital solely has been organized for the purpose of constructing a comprehensive system of electric railways in Villahermosa, the capital city of the State of Tabasco.

It has been found necessary to suspend construction work upon the line of railway traversing the center of the petroleum region of Tamaulipas and Vera Cruz and connecting with Tampico, owing to the embargo which prevents the shipment of the necessary material from the United States, and which is now held at Laredo, Texas.

Application has been made to the Department of Communications for permission to establish a new line of steamers connecting the ports of La Paz, in Lower California, and Topolobampo, in the State of Sinaloa. Communication between those places has hitherto been difficult and development has in consequence been retarded.

Permission has been given to the company owning the electric railway system in Mexico City and suburbs to reduce the passenger rates outside of the city limits fifty per cent, a petition having been presented for this purpose. This is believed to be the first case of the kind that has ever occurred anywhere in the world.

An application is pending before the Department of Communications and Public Works for the construction of an electric railway connecting Tampico with Mexico City, passing through the capitals of the States of Vera Cruz, Tlaxcala and Puebla, as well as many other important towns.

It has been decided to construct branches from Mascota and Autlan, to connect with the new line of railway now being built between Guadalajara and Chamela, a port on the Pacific Ocean. These branches will open up rich mineral and agricultural regions.

A New Periodical With a Laudable Purpose

To Instruct the Immigrant and Promote Amicable Relations

"LA DEFENSA" is the name of a new periodical whose publication has recently been undertaken in San Antonio, Texas. In its announcement this laudable purpose is given as the mainspring of its existence:

"*La Defensa,* a weekly which we now launch in the arena of journalism in this section, has for its object to foment a better understanding and a still better feeling among the large and constantly increasing Mexican population for their new country.

"Our immigrants, in the great majority, belong to the laboring classes; and coming from a land of special privileges, to a land where equal rights to all and special privileges to none prevail, they do not understand their new condition and are slow to adapt themselves to their new situation; consequently, they are misunderstood by the enlightened Americanship.

"It is the purpose of *La Defensa* to show to the Mexican immigrant the wonderful opportunities existing for them, and to show how they can enjoy all the liberties and freedom and become useful citizens. And the hope is that we will soon remove all the false ideas given them by the German propaganda and the former autocratic rulers of the Republic.

"Provided the proper support is given us by the American authorities and the Mexican population, it should be an easy task for us to show that the United States and the Republic of Mexico should work hand in hand and become good neighbors and friends in this Universal Fight for Democracy.

"*To the Americans:* We are now in the field and our watchword is: 'Rally to the Allies.'"

It is proposed to divide the Republic into five military zones with commanders as follows: The North, General Francisco Murguia; Eastern and Central, General Manuel Dieguez; West, General Plutarco Elias Calles; the South, General Pablo Gonzales; the States of Puebla, Vera Cruz and Tlaxcala, General Cesario Castro.

A project has been advanced for the construction of business edifices adjacent to the Cathedral in the City of Mexico, and refused after much discussion. Many protests were filed against the enterprise, and the special commission appointed to consider it refused its approval on various grounds.

Experts employed in the Department of Biological Studies have reported that after careful investigation of the lands reclaimed by the drainage of Lake Texcoco, in the vicinity of Mexico City, there have been rendered available some thirty millions of tons of mineral salts, including common salt, caustic soda, bicarbonate of soda, etc., for all of which there is a large demand in the Republic in various industries. Under instructions from Secretary Pastor Rouaix of the Department of Fomento, works are to be established for the purpose of utilizing the deposit.

The United States' Southern Neighbor

Interesting Statement Recently Issued by the American Chamber of Commerce of Mexico City

UNCLE SAM has become a world merchant. In 1850 the foreign trade of the United States was $218,000,000; in 1900 it was $2,244,000,000 and in the fiscal year ending last June it reached $8,953,000,000. American manufacturers and merchants must prepare, however, for strenuous competition when the world war closes. Foreign trade is no longer a luxury with Americans, but a necessity. Two great factors are abundant raw materials for manufacture, and the market abroad for goods.

Will Mexico's Resources Be Utilized?

In this connection Mexico should play a very important part. Humboldt, the noted scientist and explorer, a century ago, said: "Mexico is the great treasure house of the world. It is a beggar sitting on a bag of gold." Mexico, a few years ago, stood first among all countries in silver production, second in copper, third in lead and fourth in gold. It has great iron deposits. Mexico has produced two-thirds of the world's stock of silver. The world to-day is in dire need of the vast stores of mineral that Mexico could furnish.

During 1907 the petroleum production of Mexico was only 1,000,000 barrels. In 1910 it was 3,000,000. Last year the exports were 36,000,000 barrels and will be this year about 50,000,000, in spite of present difficulties, including lack of tank steamers and pipe lines. The Oil City (Pennsylvania) *Derrick's* Tampico correspondent has estimated that 65 wells already drilled in Mexico would, if allowed to flow freely, produce 250,000,000 barrels annually, or nearly the entire output of the United States.

The American farmer depends chiefly on Mexican henequen (sisal) fiber for binding twine. For rubber, coffee and other tropical products Mexico is a very important source of supply to the United States, but that business is only a fraction of what it might be. This country has vast ranges suitable for cattle and sheep. Mexico ought to export wheat and corn instead of importing them. It has more land suitable for sugar cane than Cuba, but its production of sugar has fallen below 100,000 tons yearly while Cuba's production has risen to 3,000,000 tons a year. These are examples.

What Mexico Could Do

Professor J. L. Lowe, of the United States Department of Agriculture, who visited Mexico in 1909, said: "There is no other country of the unlimited and diversified resources of Mexico, and none that promises a greater future."

Edwin Chamberlain, a leading banker of San Antonio, Texas, said in 1912 before the American Bankers Association at New Orleans: "Mexico has come to be one of the definite assets, one of the practical factors in the development of the world's resources. Few persons know the importance of our trade in Mexico. The United States sells to Mexico almost twice as much merchandise as England, France and Germany together. The United States buys almost four times as much of Mexico's products as the other three combined."

Mexico's commerce with the United States increased from $2,588,000 (U. S.) in 1850 to $169,000,000 in 1913. It doubled between 1903 and 1913. Until a few years ago Mexico led all Latin American countries in volume and percentage of trade with the United States, and it still is exceeded only by Cuba, Argentina and, perhaps, Brazil. This showing is due largely to the work of Americans living in Mexico.

The railroads of Mexico have generally been built and the mines developed by American capital and energy. With some exceptions the same is true of the oil wells. All of this makes for American trade.

Correcting a Wrong Impression

Business relations between Americans and Mexicans in Mexico are generally friendly. The American residents do business freely with Mexicans and have no difficulty in getting on with their neighbors as a rule. It is a great error and injustice to think that Americans and other foreigners as a whole have preyed upon Mexico. They have added largely to the general prosperity and comfort, and they should continue to do so in future.

Mexico's trade with all the other Latin American countries in a whole year is less than with the United States for two weeks. The Latin American countries have no investments in Mexico. Such development as Mexico has made has nearly all been done with foreign capital, American, European and Canadian. It is estimated that two fifths of the entire American capital invested abroad is in Mexico. Intelligent Mexicans realize the importance of all this for the country. It has developed latent wealth, made their property more valuable, given extensive employment and raised the standard of living, and is today the hope for the future. Beginnings for better things have been made.

The border line of 1830 miles should be a vast exchange counter for the respective products of the two countries, raw materials on one side and manufactures on the other. No other foreign field is potentially more important to business men of the United States.

Mexican Trade Prospects

Chicago Commerce, the periodical of the Chicago Association of Commerce, for November 15th, 1917, says:

"When Mexico again becomes quieted and her financial condition improves, there will be an urgent demand for nearly every line of manufacture entering into the life of people of a modern nation. The magnitude of the trade in Mexico that awaits American enterprise is great.

"Even now large importations are entering Mexico and of every character of goods. Mexico is most in need of mining machinery. Before Mexico's revolution much of her heavy industrial machinery came from Germany, and this was true as to agricultural machinery and implements. Mexico must now turn to the United States.

"The masses of the people of Mexico are greatly in need of the cheaper grade of cotton goods and food products. The middle and upper classes are liberal buyers, when able, of various kinds of better grades of goods of foreign manufacture. One of Mexico's industrial needs is an adequate supply of coke."

The Value of Nationality

The following is from an address by G. A. O'Reilly, foreign trade representative of the Irving National Bank, New York, delivered before the National Petroleum Association at Atlantic City, N. J., in September, 1917.

"After the war American trade, foreign and domestic, must be prepared to defend itself against aggression and competition not less strenuously than before. * * * In the matter of business co-operation for foreign trade Europe has learned the lesson much better than we. * * * We make a serious mistake when we fail to capitalize our own national tone for commercial purposes. The American temperament and characteristics are peculiarly calculated to inspire at least a healthy respect in the people of other lands.

The American Way and the German

Mr. Carl W. Ackerman, in an article on Mexico just published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, says that there is a great difference between American and German activities in Mexico. He describes the plotting, intrigue and propaganda carried on by the Germans, then quotes from the statement of this Chamber of Commerce as to its plans and purpose. Concluding, he says:

"Instead of being a secret report, as in the case of the German *Bericht* to Berlin, the American report was published and widely circulated. No mention is made of military operations, intervention and so on, and the object of the Chamber will be as beneficial to Mexico as to the United States. That is the Great Divide between American enterprise in Mexico and German intrigue. The object of the one is to develop honest business; the Teutonic object is to spread propaganda and convince the Mexicans that the German methods of conducting the war are right."

Americans living abroad introduce American goods, create a demand and make a market. They develop the native products and ship to their country. They build railroads, open mines, utilize water powers, develop oil fields, make plantations, establish factories and construct public works. They are advance agents for foreign business and they get it. They are trade missionaries, always at work. They are not adventurers or failures. They have not left home under compulsion, but because they have the spirit of the pioneers who made the Great West. They should have the heartiest support and co-operation of their government and people at home, as the British, French and Germans have. All ground gained should be held.

Justice Asked for Mexico

An Appeal to the Students of the University of California for Fair Play

(Written by Julius G. Arce, Editor of "Mefistofeles," and Translated by Mrs. G. D. Shadburne, Jr.)

WAS it one of the pranks of fate or was it premeditated calculation which brought to the gates of one of the most imposing institutions of this country (the University of California) an exhibition of one of the numerous calumniating films whose principal object seems to be to instill prejudice in the minds of the Americans and to profoundly insult and humiliate the Mexican people? Just at the moment when the magnificent celebration of the "Golden Jubilee" of the founding of this institution was being held, this film was released for the benefit (apparently) of the students and their guests.

It has been proven that this picture was not even taken in Mexico—that it is not Mexicans who have posed as the various characters, nor is it Mexican soil, nor Mexican scenes, nor Mexican customs, manners or characteristics. The plot was evidently conceived by some brain unevenly balanced. Each exotic scene is only a production of mendacity, falsity and deceit.

What a vivid contrast! Within your halls of Truth—imposing, severe, magnificent—the eloquent discourses of the founders and the brilliant conferences of the professors proclaim love of humanity, reverence for all democratic ideals, the veneration of Justice, glorified and illuminated consciences, surely inspired by the Divine spirit. And outside, close to these sacred walls, in an insignificant theater, devoted to the portrayal of cheap art, is shown a picture, awkwardly garbed in cheap, glittering tinsel, the dominating tone of which is passion, inconsistency and hatred—and thus the seeds of discord are scattered to the four winds by the apostles of inequality and by the aggressors of the weak.

Within the august realm of your scientific assemblies is being carried on the labor of a closer affiliation, of a mutual understanding, of nobility of soul, of love for fellow creatures. In the daubed hut is carried on the work of illicit ambition, of separation and the engendering of hatred.

But no matter! Young students of this great university, in you we place our confidence! In you, who cherish only lofty ideals and whose ears are closed to maliciousness and intrigue! We know well that the infamy and falsehood displayed to you in that somber hut are contradicted by the convincing words that flow from the lips of your professors and by the light of truth which radiates from your volumes of history!

From them you have learned that our primitive race, who also inhabited this territory, possessed large knowledge of the sciences and of art. They had poets, sublime and unconquerable warriors, and they left a luminous ray of light and an eternal impression of culture across the three centuries of Iberian domination. From them you have also learned that the sages and Spanish priests expressed unlimited admiration for the race that had carved in monuments of marble and stone the code of their admirable progress and advancement which enlightened the most advanced populace of the free and unexplored part of this continent. You know, too, that we severed the bonds that bound us to the mother country. We entered our new life of independence with the accompanying confusion and internal convulsions which have always confronted newly formed nations. You also know of our leaders, our liberators, of our heroes, of our martyrs, whose memories are revered throughout the whole boundaries of freed America, and you also possess the information that scientific and research associations, academies of art and literary centers have consecrated to the study of our country, and who convey to you the fruits of their labor.

And now, my young friends, tell us in all truth and honor if Mexico is a nation of savages, a territory fit to be classed with equatorial Africa, a nation without culture, without ideals, without standards of greatness and without glory? Is our native land, which we love so dearly, what our enemies represent it to be, or is it a nation where the inspiring breath of democracy reigns supreme and where progress and advancement are its chief aim?

We are tranquil! To you, future leaders, will fall the mission of Justice which Time will place in your hands. And we are sure that you will never forget that we are a friendly nation and your neighbor; that we are not strangers to this region, with its beautiful mountains, valleys and singing waters; its enchanted dells and forests, where Nature in all her exuberance has lavished her gifts unbounded. All this was ours before your "Old Glory" crowned our marvelous edifices and our imposing fortresses. Here the colors of our Mexican flag were gently tossed and softly kissed by the perfumed zephyrs of the majestic Pacific. We have something in common in our past, young friends—a band of sympathy that touches the cords of our heart-strings, welding unto eternity souls possessed of the same ideals and principles. It will not be intrigue that will blot out the truth that illuminates history, nor will it silence forever the pure sentiments of justice, innate in those who begin to live.

Nor does it matter—no—that wicked ambition and falsehood rage rampant outside your walls. Supported by your knowledge, by your sense of reason, your souls are intrenched against the onslaught of malice and error.

You are young, you are noble—you are the champions of justice—and you will accord each and every one his just dues!

Through the columns of this paper, written in a foreign language, speaks a teacher of the youth of Mexico. In the name of that youth, I appeal to you to establish a more fraternal comradeship, thus paving the way for a closer and more friendly understanding of each other, and I assure you, young students of the University of California, that your companions in Mexico will feel satisfied that you do not harbor selfish sentiments; your spirits calmly reject all attempts to instill ungovernable passion and aversion. Justice—only justice—is what we crave. This alone will suffice to destroy all prejudice!

NOTE.—The film referred to is the dramatization of Herman Whitaker's book "The Planter," written before the Revolution.

A "Debt of Hospitality"

After the monotony of our day's work in combating the current flood of lies about Mexico, dissecting and disproving each and every of them, from the merely silly or stupid ones arising in ignorance to those highly wrought and paid for by organized interests,—after such a day it is a relief to meet such a Pan-American as S. J. Macfarren, who, after years of business life and travel in Mexico, speaks out of a full heart and from intimate and practical knowledge of that country and people—speaks with broad outlook and disinterested sympathy, to pay, as he says, in part, "a debt of hospitality."

His illustrated extemporaneous "Mexican Talks" are a revelation to well-meaning people who know, as Josh Billings said, "too many things that ain't so" about Mexico, having over-trusted the printed page in their approved daily. They constitute real preparedness for peace, by means of better mutual understanding.

They have been freely given in behalf of various good causes, and interested associations should see or write to Mr. Macfarren at the Builders' Exchange, 711 Thirteenth Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C.

The residence formerly belonging to Jorge Huerta, son of the usurper, in one of the suburbs of Mexico City, has been converted into a foundling asylum and the extensive surroundings have been laid out as a park and gardens for the little unfortunates.

The arrival of a steamer from China at Acapulco is reported, with two thousand Chinese and their families. They are under contract to colonize certain lands in the State of Guerrero, which they will place under cultivation at once.

Reports from the State of Sinaloa are to the effect that conditions are normal in every respect. Abundant crops are being harvested, the area under cultivation having been greatly increased, while the introduction of modern agricultural machinery has largely augmented the yield of various farm crops.

The Department of Fomento has been asked to grant to Benjamin C. Davis, a foreigner, permission to dredge a canal from Pueblo Viejo to the Panuco River, in the Tampico oil district. The canal would cut through some large deposits of oyster shells and the sole consideration asked is the privilege of using the shells for the manufacture of concrete blocks.

Federal Water Regulation

Law Controlling the Utilization of Water for Purposes of Irrigation—Method of Taxation

FOLLOWING is the law relating to water supply that was promulgated in July, 1917, and is now in operation:

VENUSTIANO CARRANZA, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants, be it known:

That, making use of the extraordinary power vested upon me by the Honorable Congress of the Union, and

WHEREAS:

First.—Because of the devotion of the public waters of the domain of the Federation to the private use of those employing them in the improvement of their lands, or in the production of motive power applied to diverse services, the employment of this national resource results solely in an increase of the value of the properties so improved by the use of the waters, or by the establishing of enterprises of industrial exploitation with very large profits, and without the participation therein of the Government, whose property is thus given away for the benefit of private interests.

Second.—That the proper operation of the Administrative system in regard to waters requires from the Government the formation and maintenance of special bodies destined to exercise vigilance and protection upon the use of said waters in order to assure the concessionaires the full enjoyment of their rights and those which might be created, or for the solution in an expeditious and rapid manner of the vexatious controversies frequently arising from said uses;

Third.—That, owing to the torrential nature of the hydrographic system of the country, there is required for its effective employment the construction of storing and regularization works, that for their great extent, as well as for their minor attractiveness as an investment, are out of the reach of private activities, it is the duty of the State to help in the establishment of those works for the sake of the collective interests committed to the said Government;

Fourth.—That as the program of hydraulic policy requires for its full development large disbursements of money on the part of the Government, and that said Government could not meet this expense from its ordinary revenue budget without reducing certain items of its expenses which are worthy of equal attention, it is considered of a high national interest to increase the Revenue Budget, by means of a new tax, which shall be devoted to the establishment of a special service for the oversight of the federal waters, as well as to the completion of irrigation works and the establishing of hydraulic water supplies of general interest, which, owing to their character, are destined to transform in a short time the producing conditions of the country; and, lastly,

Fifth.—That in the strict application of Fractions III and IV of Article 44 of the Law now in force, in regard to waters, as well as for the reasons already set forth, all the concessionaires of waters which are Federal property must be obliged to contribute, in accordance with their allotments, to the expense that the Federal Government may incur in order to obtain the better distribution and use of the public waters.

Now, therefore, I do hereby proclaim the following Decree:

ARTICLE 1. From the date of this Decree, and in accordance with the provisions therein contained, a Federal tax is hereby established upon the use and employment of the waters subject to the domain of the State;

ARTICLE 2. The revenue thus defined shall be formed by the amount of the tax that all concessionaires of Federal waters shall pay from the time in which the contract of concession is signed, in the terms and in accordance with the following dispositions:

I. The concessionaires of water for irrigation of owned lands shall pay annually, without regard to the volume of which they may dispose, the sum of $0.05 (five centavos) for each thousand annual cubic metres covered by their concession.

II. Persons having the sole use of water for irrigation purposes, diverted to non-owned lands by means of companies or irrigation societies of any kind, shall pay annually the sum of $0.10 (ten centavos) for each annual thousand cubic metres.

III. The concessionaires of dams or reservoirs of water, established at the expense of streams of Federal jurisdiction, shall pay the annual fee given in the previous paragraph in regard to owned lands, applied to the entire storing capacity.

IV. Persons having the use of waters for the production of motive power, for sale by means of companies or societies organized with this object, shall pay annually:

A. From the time in which the concession is granted until the works are received in conformity by the corresponding authority, they shall pay the sum of $0.50 (fifty centavos) by theoretical horse power of production at the plant, estimated at the rate of 75 kilogrametres.

B. From the time at which the works are received by the corresponding authority, the annual fee shall be $1.00 (one peso) for each effective horse power, measured at the generating plant.

V. Persons using waters for the production of motive power, destined to the industrial service of the concessionaires, shall pay for 100 theoretical horse power and upward, 50 per cent of the fees already mentioned.

VI. Persons using the waters for industrial purposes shall pay the same fees already stated for the water used in irrigation purposes on lands owned by the concessionaires.

VII. Persons using the waters for fertilizing lands shall pay annually 50 per cent of the amount fixed for the irrigation of lands which are the property of the concessionaires.

VIII. Drainage contracts and all other special works which may be authorized for the improvement, regularization and employment of the Federal waters in other uses different from those already set forth, shall pay special fees, defined in each case by the Federal Executive through the Department of Promotion (Fomento).

There shall be exempted from all tax Federal waters destined to the following uses:

1. Domestic use of the same waters.
2. Public and private use in the service of the inhabitants of towns or for municipal public works.
3. Federal waters destined to the irrigation of towns and agricultural colonies, either established by the Federal Government, local governments, or by private individuals or companies fulfilling this object.
4. Federal waters destined to the irrigation of forestal nurseries or for the irrigation of plantations of trees leading to the reforestation of our forests; and, lastly,
5. Federal waters destined to the production of motive power for industrial use of the same concessionaires, and for a theoretic productive capacity up to 100 horse power of 75 kilogrametres.

ARTICLE 3. The fees assessed to the concessionaires in the application of the aforesaid disposition shall be fixed by the Department of Promotion in accordance with the provisions of transitory Article 2 of this law, and shall be paid by the persons responsible for these fees, in advance, each six months, at the offices of the Treasury of the Federation, during the months of January and July of each year, receiving from the same office a receipt which states that the payment has been received. This receipt shall protect the concessionary for the use of the waters mentioned in his contract during the period for which it has been granted. Default in meeting of one of these payments, except in the case of superior force duly proved and accepted by the corresponding authority, will be a reason for declaring extinct the right and all assets therein contained, without the prejudice to demanding from the causer the financial responsibilities which he may have incurred, in accordance with the laws in force.

Transitories

ARTICLE 1. This Decree shall begin its effect from the date of its publication, and only for this occasion, the tax due in the second semestre of this year shall be paid within the 15 days following that in which the corresponding modification be made. Future payments shall be afterwards made beginning from the first day of January, 1918, in the terms pointed out in Article 3 of this law.

ARTICLE 2. The Department of Promotion shall receive from this date, up to the 30th of September, the declarations that the persons using the waters may present, specifying the volume of water used, or the amount of power which may be derived from their concessions or actually produced. Said declarations shall be verified by the same department and the decisions shall be notified to the concessionaires and to the Department of Finance for their exact application.

(*Concluded on page 23*)

Law of Land Endowment

Regulations for the Allotment of Community Lands to Heads of Families—Details of the Plan

Article 12. The land given to the towns is called Commons and will have sufficient area to correspond with the needs of the population, the agricultural quality of the soil, the topography of the place, etc. The minimum extent of a gift will be seven hectares of land for each head of a family.

Article 13. The Commons will be marked out in the lands immediately bounding the interested towns, keeping in account the following provisions:

I. If the Commons surround the village the point of departure will be the center of the principal square, or lacking that, the town house; and the Commons will take the form of a square of area equal to the sum of hectares of land which corresponds to the population at the rate of seven hectares (17½ acres) for each head of a family.

II. If impossible on account of topography or of great inconvenience for the objects of the present law, to give the Commons the standard form of a square or to define it surrounding the town, according to the respective technical report, at the discretion of the local land commission in each case, the Commons will be laid out in the fittest place in the form which the topography of the land imposes; but in every case bounding by some way with the village.

III. The gift of land to a town will not include the construction of ranches, factories, acqueducts, or other artificial works of the holder of the land affected by the gift, but such property will be set off with the necessary space for the use of the constructions in the usual way and for their communication with the near-by roads; and the area of such a zone will be made up to the town which has the gift, whether by taking it from the same tract or from other lands.

Article 14. The determination and acknowledgement of the protective zone mentioned in the former Article will be considered as a part of the transfer of the gift lands, it will be verified by the local land commission on request of the holder affected and will be definitely established by the executive of the union upon decree of the gift in question.

Article 15. When the holder of the farm buildings or constructions mentioned in the former article does not appear to claim them after previous notice before the authority, during the time of the survey of the corresponding gift and before the final judgment, the respective civil action will be held as abandoned and the amount of the indemnification which the respective authority fixes as accepted. In this case also the buildings or constructions will remain for the account of the town to which the lands are given and they will be in the care of the political authority of the place and will serve for the common benefit of the town.

Article 16. The streams, the forests, the pastures, comprehended in the Commons will be for common use while there is no law regarding the partition of the land reclaimed or obtained. This use will be guarded by the Commission of Utilization of the Common Lands in accordance with existing laws upon forests and waters and according to the provisions of this law.

Article 17. In case of restitution of lands to the towns when these shall have fully proved their right in accordance with the provisions of the law, of other towns, farms, congregations or communities of origin more recent than that of the population which obtained the restitution, and which are situated within the boundary of the reclaimed lands, these will be protected in the possession which they maintain, if in fact they hold the lands in Common, until the corresponding authority defines the situation by legalizing it.

Article 18. All the towns, ranches, congregations, or communities included in lands restored to other towns, upon obtaining the gift of land will be exempt from the payment of any indemnity.

Survey of Farm Lands

Title 3—Land Authorities

In order to transact all matters relative to gifts and restorations of land and other matters immediately and naturally following these, the following Agrarian authorities will operate:

I. A National Agrarian Commission.

II. A Local Agrarian Commission in each capital of a state or federal territory and one in the federal district.

III. A Special Executive Committee in each municipal center and in each settlement where the National Agrarian Commission so decides.

Article 20. The National Agrarian Commission will have for its special function to decide; the Local Commissions to collect the elements of proof, to report and certify; and the Private Executive Committees to execute the provisional or definite judgments in each case.

Article 21. The National Agrarian Commission will consist of nine members, nominated by the Executive of the Union, and the Secretary of Fomento will be President of it ex-officio. The National Agrarian Commission will have the following powers and duties:

I. To decide in accordance with the particular rule which fixes the distribution of work, upon all the cases which the Local Commissions transmit and upon the points which follow:

(a) Whether a town has fully proved its right to a restitution of lands.

(b) Whether such restoration affects any other group of people.

(c) Whether the lands reclaimed are insufficient or excessive for the necessities of the town which has fully proved its right to them.

(d) Whether a town which has not proven sufficiently its right to reclaim lands shall have by gift a sufficient quantity for its just necessities.

(e) To decide upon the necessity or fitness of any town, ranch, congregation or community obtaining by gift lands for its economic subsistence.

(f) To decide upon the quantity of lands which should be given in each case, in accordance with the minimum per head of family fixed by this law and upon the location and form of the commons which should be given.

(g) To decide upon the incidents which are presented by reclamations of previous owners, who are judged to be affected by the petitions for gifts or by provisional resolutions of the governors of the states or the decisions of the federal executive.

II. To watch by means of a body of inspectors of the National Agrarian Commission that the Local Agrarian Commissions and Committees proceed with diligence, rectitude and patriotism in each matter which is submitted for their study, according to the powers which this law gives them and in agreement with the provision which the National Agrarian Commission makes for the better decision of Agrarian affairs.

III. To obtain the most correct platting, by means of technical agents, of the lands reclaimed by the town and of land obtained by the same for correct fixing of the boundaries and easy subsequent sub-division of the lands.

IV. To define the working of the Local Land Commission, of the Private Executive Committees and of the Commissions for the utilization of Commons in accordance with the general provisions of this law.

V. To decide the amounts of the indemnities which are claimed in consequence of a gift or land, having in view the census value of the lot, the portion of the same affected, the material improvements, and the other circumstances justly influencing the value of the farm occupied.

VI. To keep a careful registry of all Agrarian movement in the country, in which is shown the effect of the sub-division of holdings, the new form of improvement of the land and the consequences of sub-division in the natural production of the Republic.

VII. To decide all questions of legal, technical or administrative order which the towns or local commissions offer, in accordance with the general constitution, with this law and with those which may be enacted later.

Incompatible Offices

Article 22. Except in regard to the President, the duty of a member of the National Agrarian Commission is incompatible with any other official duty and no owner of more than fifty hectares of land can be a member of it, neither the master nor the servant of the tract. All the members of the National Agrarian Commission, of the Local Agrarian Commissions and of the Private Executive Committees in each case will be Mexicans by birth. They shall not have served the Government of the Dictators and they will enjoy proper remuneration.

Article 23. In each capital of a State or Territory, and in the Federal District there will be a Local Agrarian Commission, composed of five individuals, nominated by the respective Governors.

ARTICLE 24. The Commission will consist of a President, a Secretary, and three voters chosen by election within the Commission itself.

ARTICLE 25. No member of the Commission shall serve in other public employment, nor can he be owner of more than fifty hectares of land nor an employee or master of such. The members of the National Agrarian Commission, of the Local Agrarian Commission and of the Private Executive Committees in each case will be Mexican by birth. They shall not have served the Government of the Dictators.

ARTICLE 26. The Local Agrarian Commissions, except in regard to their nomination or organization, are subordinate in all their work to the National Agrarian Commission. Their decisions upon provisional holdings to the town are of exclusive competence and they will only be submitted for revision of the Federal Executive through the National Agrarian Commission after the delivery of the provisional possession.

ARTICLE 27. The Local Agrarian Commission will have for its object:

I. To collect and classify all the necessary elements of proof in the suits for gift or restitution of lands, set up by the towns, ranches, congregations and communities in accordance with this law.

II. To make and receive all the reports which may be useful for obtaining full knowledge concerning the necessity or convenience of the gift of lands, and concerning the rights to the restitution solicited, as well as the nature, conditions, description, production, etc., of the lands in question and the history of the title of each region and each place.

III. To decree the gift or restitution provisionally of the lands solicited, when sufficient elements exist for granting the petition of the interested town.

IV. To formulate before the Government of the respective States and before the National Agrarian Commission, an opinion complete and precise in detail, upon the necessity and convenience of the gift sought, or upon the right of restitution solicited, as well as over the extension of the lands which should be given or restored.

V. To be the only channel for the transaction of Agrarian affairs of which this law treats, before the higher Agrarian authority and the officials of the states, territories, and federal districts, as well as between them and private individuals.

VI. To watch the work of the respective committees.

Private Executive Committees

ARTICLE 28. In all the heads of municipalities of the country and in all of the towns in which it may be convenient in the judgment of the respective government, there will be nominated by it a private executive committee composed of three citizens, a President, a Secretary and a voter.

ARTICLE 29. No official, employee or owner of more than fifty hectares, or his servant, can be a member of the private executive committees. All the members of the National Agrarian Commission, of the Local Agrarian Commission and of the Private Executive Committees in each case will be Mexican by birth, they shall not have served the Governments of the Dictators, and will enjoy a fitting remuneration.

ARTICLE 30. The Government of the States, Territories, or of the Federal District will make a note to the Local Agrarian Commission of the private committees nominated, and of any changes made in them; that they may communicate to the National Agrarian Commission.

ARTICLE 31. The Private Executive Committees will be subordinate to the Local Agrarian Commissions and the local Governments will arrange for their payment for work which they execute in view of the quantity or quality of the same.

ARTICLE 32. The functions of the Private Executive Committees will be the following:

I. To execute the definite judgments decreed by the Federal Executive and transmitted by the National Agrarian Commission, in their proper terms and in regard to gifts or restitutions.

II. To execute the provisional resolutions in regard to gifts and restitutions dictated by the Government of the State, and the Federal District, or of the respective local commissions. To instruct interested persons regarding the conduct of the Agrarian suits.

III. To make a detailed record of the proceedings in every action in which it intervenes and to remit it with a report to the respective local commissions.

IV. To furnish to the corresponding Local Agrarian Commission all the data which it requires, solely upon the facts relative to the lands solicited in gifts or restitutions.

The regulating commission which handles the output of henequen fiber in Yucatan, and which includes practically all the growers, announces that for the year 1917 it has the sum of $24,000,000 Mexican gold (12,000,000 American) ready for distribution among the stockholders, and payment of the dividends has already commenced. This amount is in addition to the advances made during the year to each producer upon his output.

A projected law of "the patrimony of the family" has been submitted to the State Congress of Durango by instructions from Governor Arrieta, which, as its title indicates, deals with the redemption of the promises of the Revolution in regard to lands and the protection of families in their rights thereto. It was in this State that the first steps were taken early in the Revolution to restore the community lands to their rightful owners.

In August, 1916, permission to exploit the national lands for possible sources of petroleum supply outside of the defined districts where such deposits were demonstrated to exist, was suspended. This inhibition has now been removed and those so desiring may extend their prospecting wherever they wish, after compliance with the laws governing such matters.

The necessary material has been received for the construction of the local railway which is to connect Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco, with the main line for Guadalajara and other cities. It is proposed to construct hotels, bath houses and other appliances for the establishment of a pleasure resort on the shores of this picturesque lake. A Norwegian company is carrying out the project.

FEDERAL WATER REGULATION

(Concluded from page 21)

Default in the presentation of the necessary declaration in the above given time shall be punished in the terms fixed in transitory Article 5.

ARTICLE 3. In all those contracts which may include different uses of the waters granted, the fees shall be calculated applying the one corresponding to each method of water usage in accordance with the volume of water to which it is devoted.

ARTICLE 4. In all regulated streams the fee shall be paid in advance for the minimum provided for in the regulation, and at the end of each six months a settlement shall be made for each canal upon the basis of the total volume received during that time. The amount shown by this settlement shall be paid within the term of 15 days, counting from its date. Unless this requisite shall be fulfilled, there shall be applied a coercive penalty for the liquidation of the debt.

ARTICLE 5. Persons having the use of waters without submitting themselves to the principles of this decree, and who may continue using waters of Federal jurisdiction, shall be subjected to the civil responsibility that they may incur, in accordance with the provisions of the Penal Code of the Federal District, and to the administrative penalties established by the laws in regard to waters.

Now, therefore, I order that this decree be printed, published, circulated, and given due observance.

Done at the City of Mexico, in the National Palace of the Executive Power, this sixth day of July, in the year one thousand nine hundred and seventeen.

(Signed) The Constitutional President of the
United States of Mexico:
V. CARRANZA.

The inspector-general of police of the capital city proposes to instal a corps of police with motorcycles, the better to combat the violators of the law who use automobiles and who do not comply with the regulations concerning their use.

Arrangements are being made to utilize the waste lands that were reclaimed at Vera Cruz by the construction of the port works and the filling in of extensive areas heretofore covered with water. It is proposed to establish a modern colony and to dispose of the lands for settlement. Some six millions of dollars will be realized from this sale, it is expected, while the city itself will be correspondingly benefited and beautified.

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CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
Mexico, D. F. Monte De Piedad
P. O. B. No. 598 No. 13

NEWS BREVITIES

The customs collections at the port of Tampico for the month of March reached a total of $602,247.21.

The Governor of the State of Guerrero announces that that section is tranquil, thus contradicting statements recently published in the foreign press in regard thereto.

It has been learned that there are ten thousand traveling street peddlers in the city of Mexico and it is proposed to restrict them to certain streets.

A project is under way at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, for the construction of a race track and park similar to the one at Juarez for the amusement of the public.

Exports of domestic merchandise from New York City to Mexican ports during the month of February, 1918, were $2,055,382, against $1,317,224 for the same month in 1917.

The Inspector-General of Police of Mexico City has issued instructions for the exercise of especial vigilance in order to prevent all games of chance in the casinos, etc., they having been prohibited.

The first wireless telephone plant in the Republic is now being established in the Tampico petroleum region, the necessary apparatus having been manufactured at home. Good results are expected therefrom.

The construction of artificial dunes for the reclamation of some of the coast lands is under way in the vicinity of Vera Cruz. One that will be five hundred meters in length (over 1600 feet) is now in process of extension.

The Congress of the State of Mexico has imposed a heavy tax upon plantations of maguey, the plant from which pulque is made, in the hope that lands devoted to that growth may be utilized for purposes more adapted to the best needs of the people.

The National Mint coined during the months of January and February $10,000,000 in gold of various denominations and $240,000 in silver. The establishment is operated at its full capacity, the volume of circulating medium thus receiving constant additions of large amounts.

The City Council of Mexico has under consideration a proposal for the establishment of a Board of Censorship for moving pictures in order to prevent the exhibition of those that are deemed contrary to public morals. A tax upon each film exhibited is also proposed in order to still further stimulate the use of films of the highest class.

An ingenious invention has been perfected by an employe of the government arsenal by which the cartridges ejected from rifles during use are thrown into a small pocket attached to the weapon and are thus preserved and made available for subsequent use. The loss of empty cartridges is a serious problem in warfare.

A company headed by capitalists from St. Louis, Mo., has been organized in Monterrey for the purpose of engaging in the manufacture of various lines of hardware upon an extensive scale. In the past much of the supply has been obtained from European countries, but it is proposed to supply the market with home products so far as possible.

Work has been renewed upon the improvements of the port of Guaymas, in Sonora, in order to accommodate the increasing commerce of that port. It is intended to have vessels that now load and discharge at Mazatlan, to the great inconvenience of shippers in the northern portion of the State, make Guaymas a port of call as soon as the necessary improvements shall have been completed.

MEXICAN BYWAYS AND HIGHWAYS

(*Concluded from page* 16)

centuries to the torrid afternoon sun and storing up in their sides, burned black from their normal gray, its intense heat. To the west it is desert, always desert, nothing but desert. And as the night grows cool, as it always does even in midsummer, one becomes distinctly and physically aware of the stored heat in the crags on the one side, and as the breeze from the other direction grows cooler and cooler as the hours pass, this heat becomes grateful. And during the night one turns to the mountain for warmth just as he does to his campfire at other times.

This is another of the lures of the desert—the desert nights.

Then of course there is the golden lure, the lure of mineral wealth, which has made a few wealthy beyond their dreams, but has cost a hundred, a thousand times as many their happiness and their lives. Nature has hidden her choicest treasures of material wealth in the desert, as though to discourage mankind from searching for them, or else in contempt at their intrinsic worthlessness. Incidentally, as already described, she has hidden some of her choicest other treasures there as well. But those who feel the lure of desert gold have little time or inclination for the intangible and priceless lure. Once felt, the lure of the material fastens its hold upon its victim, and never can he be anything except what is so aptly described by the habitues of the region—"a desert rat."

And now in closing this chapter an apology is due—an apology to the desert. No mere man can adequately describe its charm, set forth its lure, picture it as it is. No one has done it at all events, though many have attempted. And when one tries to perform this impossible task he owes an apology, not to his readers, but to the ineffable, the indescribable, the majestic, the immutable Spirit of the Desert!

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

The Mexican Review will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist The Review in this important but difficult task.

SPANISH TRANSLATION BY TECHNICAL EXPERT

Competent American (Engineer) with foreign business experience offers limited service in translation. Among his authorized references is the editor of this journal, in care of which he may be addressed as "Don Jaime."

Edward M. Wilson, M.E.

Technical Petroleum Expert

Geological Reports, Plans & Estimates of Mexican Oil Regions

P. O. Box 274 *Mexico City*

REASON VS. FANATICISM

(*Concluded from page* 13)

of the time and where he met all of the public men and knew all of their history, you would find that his idea of Mexico and its necessities were quite different from those glibly expressed by your earlier informants. You also would find that Mexico has a history that antedates that of the United States and that many of its historical traditions and accomplishments are wonderful. You even will find a clear explanation of Mexico's present chaotic condition and its solution and you will conclude that to take a sane, normal view of Mexico is better than to take the extravagant and radical view that your casual informant will quickly give you.—*Elmira (N.Y.) Herald.*

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The Mexican Review

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Long-Continued Misrepresentation

IT IS a hopeless task to endeavor to run down all the great volume of misstatement that finds ready circulation regarding Mexican affairs, and The Review will not undertake it. But in one direction it seems essential to pay attention to such errors, since many international questions are involved, and many foreigners are deeply interested. This is concerning the petroleum situation.

At regular intervals the public is treated to unfounded talk about burdensome taxation, confiscatory decrees, and interference with the production of the petroleum which is needed for war purposes. It seems to be the purpose of those circulating these reports to lead the foreign public to believe that anarchy prevails in the oil regions, that it is impossible to carry on business there, and that those owning oil lands and equipment are in constant danger of having them taken away.

The Review has published from time to time all the decrees and laws affecting the petroleum business, and a study of these shows that so far from being heavily taxed, the oil producers in reality have little of which to complain.

As to the "nationalization" of petroleum, which is held up as such a bugbear, it is sufficient to explain that this simply means placing the oil deposits beneath the surface upon exactly the same footing as the gold, silver, copper and other minerals. For all time those engaged in mining in Mexico have operated under acknowledged governmental ownership of the minerals for which they were in search. They were obliged to make especial arrangements with the authorities before engaging in the development of mines. The ownership of the surface did not at any time carry with it that of the sub-surface deposits, and it was entirely legal for a non-owner to enter upon the lands of another, lay claim to and develop mineral deposits, doing this with the sanction of the Government.

But the best proof of the falsity of the alarming assertions that have found such widespread circulation and belief is the fact that notwithstanding the enactment of new laws governing the petroleum industry, the old companies which have been in the business for the greatest period show no intention of abandoning their enterprises or fear that they will be seriously hampered. They are all sinking new wells, enlarging their plants, and increasing their potential production. New companies too are constantly being organized and commencing operations, as a study of the official reports will determine.

There is just one drawback to the fullest prosperity of the industry—and that is the lack of shipping that curtails exportation—the principal market for Mexican oil. And this lack, it need scarcely be said, is due to the necessity on the part of the countries now engaged in war for devoting every vessel obtainable to other and more important uses than the transportation of oil.

To maintain that any of the existing Mexican laws are acting as a deterrent to the extension of the industry is to maintain something that is entirely contrary to the facts.

Foreign Trade Statistics

The total exports of domestic merchandise from the port of New York to Mexican points for the month of March, 1918, amounted to $1,397,266, while for the same month in 1917 they were $1,904,109. The imports from Mexico to New York for the same month in 1918 were $1,398,026, while for March, 1917, they were $2,507,872. The decrease is due to war conditions, which have curtailed the available shipping facilities and have also reduced the volume of trade owing to the embargo on various articles.

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"Unfortunate Discussion"

THERE is an element which seems to want trouble with Mexico and Mexicans, which is ready always to distort matters in Mexico, to slander leaders in the public life of the Republic, and to do all that is possible to stir up feeling against Americans among Mexicans. And when one takes a stand in opposition to the damaging practices of which so much complaint is made, there is raised a whine that such things should not be discussed in these perilous times.

All of that ilk may rest assured that there would be no discussion if they were not stirring up things continually. If they did not seize every opportunity to misrepresent happenings, to predict alarming policies, to calumniate men high in the estimation of the Mexican people, there would be no call for any one to present counter statements.

As has been asserted in *The Oasis* several times, there are a number of Arizona newspapers which are very reprehensible in this particular. They tell all sorts of weird things. A case in instance was the story that was set afloat some weeks ago to the effect that the Mexican Government had demanded the exequatur of Consul Simpich at Guaymas. The comment of one newspaper was a prediction that the border ports would be closed by the United States in retaliation. That would be a very childish thing to do, even had the action represented as taken actually been done. But the story was untrue. Yet to point out the falsity of such controversion of their calumnies is taken by the calumniators as unfortunate discussion in perilous times. The unfortunate feature is the readiness of men and newspapers to seize upon all sorts of rumors and give them credence, with an extension of publicity to which they are not entitled.—*Nogales (Arizona) Oasis.*

Doctor Juan B. Rojo, First Secretary of the Mexican Embassy in Washington, has been promoted to the post of Counsellor of the same Embassy. Before coming to the United States, Doctor Rojo was Attorney for the Department of Foreign Relations of Mexico, and was also Secretary to the American-Mexican Joint Commission, which met at New London and Atlantic City in 1916.

A special commission to which the question was referred by the Legislature of the State of Jalisco has reported in favor of the total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages and also of the planting and cultivation of the maguey plant from which such beverages are manufactured.

Cementing Friendly Relations

The Governors of the States of Texas and Coahuila Hold a Conference at Piedras Negras and Eagle Pass

BY MRS. IRENE KRANZTHOR SCHUTZ

THE meeting of Governor Hobby, of Texas, and Governor Mireles, of Coahuila, which took place on May 15th, was an event on the Texas-Mexican boundary that will be recorded in border history. Not only that, the meeting of the Governors was of far-reaching international significance as well, a significance that carries with it only one meaning—mutual good will and willingness to aid one another in the various vital issues of our day. The visit of the Governors had been heralded as the glorious occasion that would cement the feeling of friendship existing between Mexico and the United States, and all who witnessed the memorable meeting have no doubt that through this visit the amicable relations between the sister Republics have been placed on a firmer footing than ever before.

Meeting of the Governors on the International Bridge

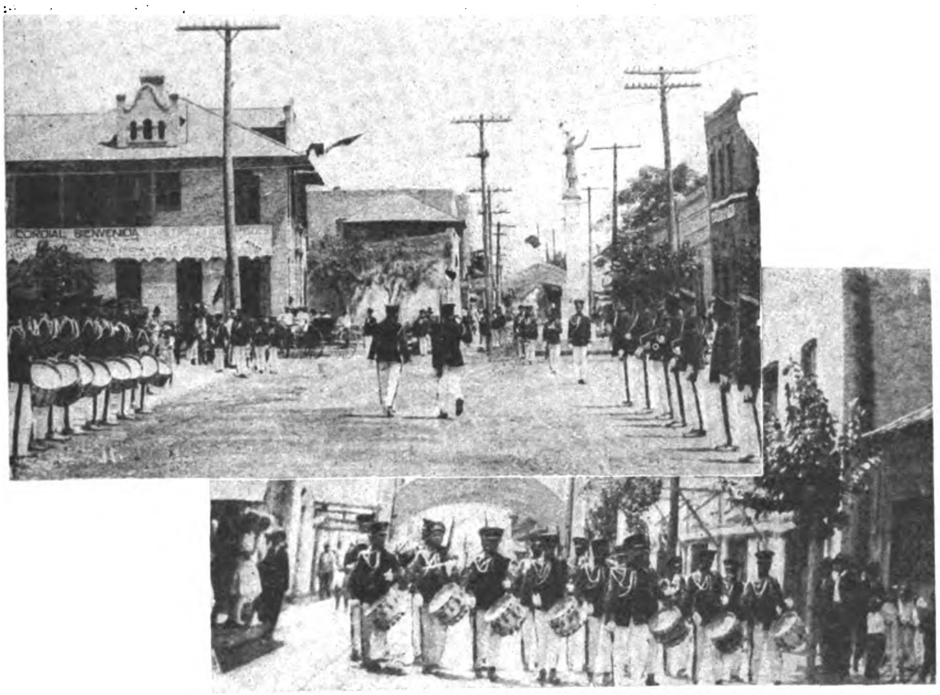
The day of the Governors' meeting was filled to overflowing with interesting incidents, but one event in particular stands out as the most salient and characteristic feature of the day—the meeting between Governor Hobby and Governor Mireles at the boundary monument on the International Bridge which connects Eagle Pass with Piedras Negras. Most impressive was the moment when Hon. W. P. Hobby, Governor of the State of Texas, and Señor Gustavo Espinosa Mireles, Governor of Coahuila, Mexico, met at the dividing line on the bridge. Early that morning, the moment Governor Hobby arrived in Eagle Pass, compliments had been extended him in the name of Governor Mireles by Señor Teodoro Frezieres, Consul of Mexico in Eagle Pass, and the deputies, Señores Sanchez and Treviño. Governor Mireles' party at the bridge included, among other notabilities, General Fernando Peraldi, Commanding Officer of the Mexican Army of Piedras Negras District.

Governor Hobby's arrival at the boundary monument was preceded by a rousing welcome on the part of the citizens of Eagle Pass, who had made elaborate preparations for his reception. Popular enthusiasm was genuine at receiving in Eagle Pass for the first time a Governor of their great and good State. From the center of the International Bridge could be clearly seen masses of bunting and waving flags of red, white and blue, intermingled with the Mexican national colors of red, white and green. Along the American side of the bridge was stationed a battalion of the Third United States infantry at "present arms," and on the Mexican side stood in gallant array 400 cadets from the Ateneo Fuente in Saltillo, who escorted Governor Mireles to Piedras Negras. The picture was wonderful—the stalwart American soldiers, their clear eyes looking straight ahead of them; the sinuous, wiry Mexican cadets, clad in bright uniforms, showing blue coats in braid trimming and red stripes.

As the long line of automobiles from each side of the Rio Grande approached the centre of the bridge the crowds on the Mexican side surged forward, eager to see all that was going on. But in the whole crowd there was not a single look or utterance that was not friendly, and all there—though most belonged to the poorer classes—were quiet and courteous, a trait always noticeable in Piedras Negras crowds, no matter what the occasion may be to which they throng. Very attractive was the presence of charming ladies who accompanied the Coahuila Governor's wife, Señora Mireles, to the center of the bridge and assisted her there in receiving the distinguished American visitors. Before coming to the bridge, the beautiful and gracious Señora Mireles, as well as a number of other prominent ladies, held short informal receptions in front of some of the public buildings of Piedras Negras. I felt honored in assisting to receive there as well as at the bridge, at the same time that I congratulated myself on the vantage point I thus had in being able to get an immediate impression of the meeting of the Governors and their parties as it took place on the bridge. Very charming was Mrs.

Mrs. Governor Hobby Teaching Mrs. Governor Mireles to Knit

Hobby, wife of Governor Hobby, in her interchange of greetings with Señor and Señora Mireles and their party. The sight of Governor Hobby's firm, unconsciously dignified bearing and fine, steadfast countenance, left no doubt that he is one of the best men who ever filled the office of Governor of Texas. Governor Mireles' appearance offered a contrast, for he is cast in a slender and delicate mould from head to heel, but strength underlies this pleasing delicacy, and his winning manner, accompanied by the piercing but friendly glance of his observant eyes, did not fail to make a lasting impression on those who saw him.


The Young Mexican Cadets

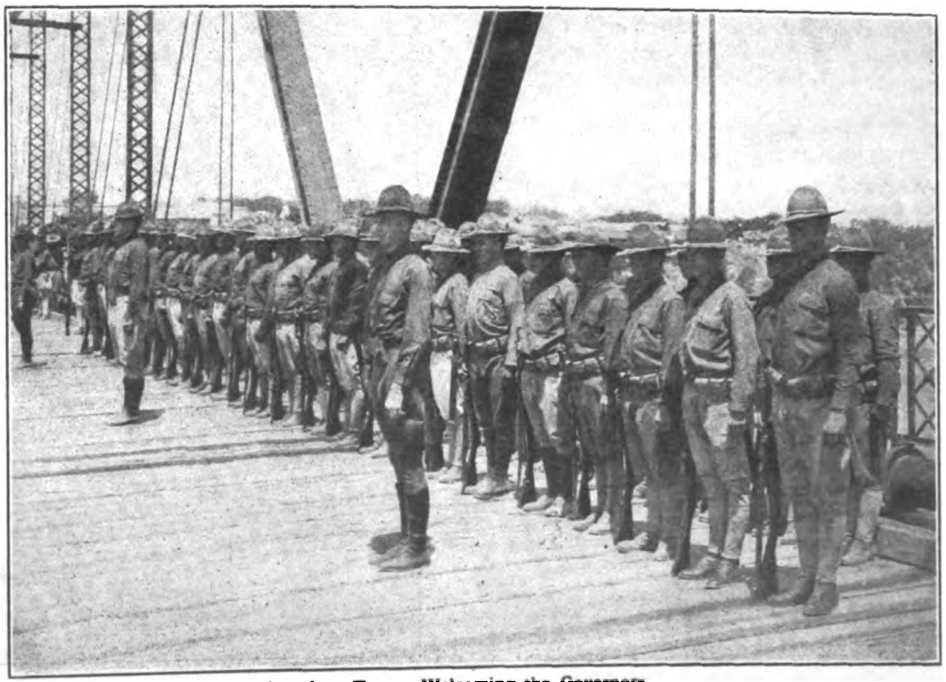
The May-day sky spread an arch of softest azure over the whole entrancing scene, and the southern atmosphere fairly vibrated with subdued yet intense excitement as the strains of "The Star Spangled Banner" and the Mexican National Hymn rose above the bridge. As Governor Hobby crossed the boundary line into Mexico, the Mexican band struck up "The Star Spangled Banner" and the American band played the Mexican National Anthem. Thereupon the cortège proceeded to the Custom House in Piedras Negras, passing under triumphal arches aglow with the Mexican and American national colors. Several arches were erected by the Japanese of Piedras Negras, who are always ready to lend their artistic touch to festive occasions. Arriving at the Custom House another reception was held in the salons there, where groups of guests intermingled freely and crowded in friendly manner around the two Governors who were receiving on the balcony of the structure. Ladies especially availed themselves of the opportunity to shake hands with the Governors, who stood side by side, for word had gone forth that all ladies present had been requested to meet the officials on the balcony, and all responded gladly to the invitation. An unusual character was lent the eventful occasion by the presence of a noticeable number of United States army officers who had received invitations for the Governors' luncheon. All the officers were delighted to be on Mexican soil again and under such admirable auspices. Pleasant chatting was indulged in by the guests present, and all could not help but admire the pleasing picture presented by Mesdames Mireles and Hobby sitting together and knitting, Señora Mireles having in Mrs. Hobby an expert instructor in that art. Señora Mireles was a most apt pupil—learning how to wield the knitting needles was no difficult task for her. The Governors held a closeted conference during their stay at the Custom House. Their discussions, as was afterwards learned, were very satisfactory, marked by friendship and mutual understanding and the will to uphold the existing friendship in the future.

The chief matters discussed during the conference between Governor Hobby and Governor Mireles were reciprocity of trade between the two countries, interchange of active and extended commercial relations, the resumption of extradition proceedings which would go far towards putting an end to banditry from both sides of the border, the alignment with the pro-Ally cause, the stamping out of pro-German propaganda, the exchange of Mexican grain where it is surplus for American commodities, etc.

Attention was also given during the conference to the progress of education in the State of Coahuila and the great increase in the number of schools there. Governor Mireles brought out many facts in this connection which were of the utmost interest to the party.

During the banquet at Piedras Negras Adjutant General James A. Harley, of Texas, said that the United States, and Texas especially, wished to leave Mexico alone and not to interfere in any way—to leave any troubles that come up in Mexico for Mexico to deal with alone. Further, that what border guard, military or ranger, is placed along the line would under no circumstances interfere on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande, the United States having its hands full taking care of many other troubles. The mutual aid, General Harley continued, between Mexico and the United States would consist in the interchange of articles of necessity to both nations and in the maintenance of friendly relations. He referred to the necessity for Mexican labor in Texas and the advisability of getting Mexican laborers to come into that State, that being the only available source of supply for cotton growers and farmers.

(*Concluded on page 23*)


American Troops Welcoming the Governors

Along the Mexican West Coast

A Brief Sketch of One of the Leading Sections of That Wonderfully Endowed Region

IT IS no exaggeration to say that the West Coast of Mexico is less known to the average foreigner, whether from the United States or elsewhere, than any other portion of the entire Republic of Mexico.

The States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit (formerly the Territory of Tepic) and Jalisco are included in the section designated, extending as they do for a thousand miles and more up and down the Pacific Ocean. Portions of Sonora, being adjacent to the boundary line, are more or less known to Americans, but the territory to the South has comparatively few locations into which foreigners have penetrated and established themselves to any extent.

General Juan Carrasco

Sinaloa on account of its geographical position is one of the most promising and interesting of Mexican States. Its climate is healthful and salubrious and the atmosphere is neither too moist nor too dry. The country is not afflicted with diseases incidental to the tropics, as are those portions of the Republic bordering on the Gulf of Mexico in the east and others lying on the Pacific toward the south. In the eastern portion of the State are the gradual slopes of the Sierra Madre and in this section all the fruits of the temperate and cooler zones are found. The greater portion of the population and the largest cities are, however, found in the lowlands, the warmer portion of the commonwealth.

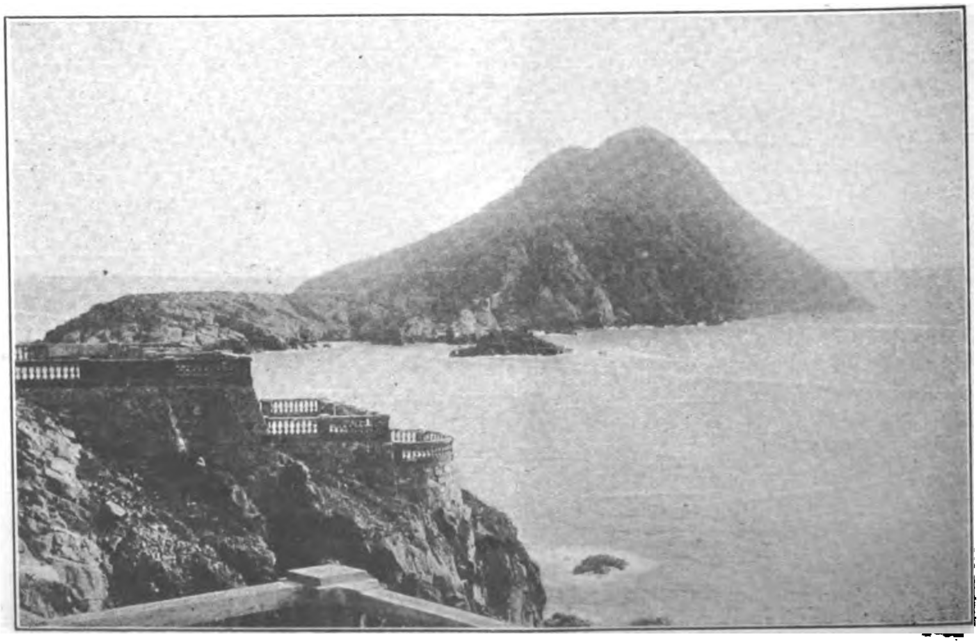
Sinaloa has an extensive coastline covering several hundred miles of that body of water known in olden times as the "Sea of Cortez," better known as the Gulf of California. At the entrance to this sea is situated the Port of Mazatlan, the most important shipping point on the entire Pacific Coast, into which lines of steamers run from the Orient, from the South and from American ports to the North. At one time the Port of Altata, north of Mazatlan and the nearest point to Culiacan, the capital of the State, was a shipping point of considerable importance, but little business is transacted there at present. By all odds the finest harbor on the entire Pacific Coast of Mexico is that of Topolobampo, situated in Sinaloa about midway between Mazatlan and Guaymas. This port was the terminal point selected for the construction of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad, which, as its name implies, will when completed connect one of the greatest railroad centers of the United States with steamship lines running to the Orient. The harbor is a sheltered one, the water is deep and there is abundance of natural facilities for the accommodation of a large trade. Very little, however, has so far been done. The road mentioned has been constructed in part on the West Coast and in the State of Chihuahua, as well as some of it in the United States. When completed and connected up this road will furnish transportation for a vast territory which at present is only developed to a very small degree, but which is possessed of natural resource that is capable of an almost infinite exploitation.

The plateaus of Sinaloa are marvelously rich in minerals, gold, silver, copper and the baser metals. Here the capitalist can, if he will, find opportunities for the investment of his money that will bring large and speedy returns. The veins are rich, water and fuel are abundant and labor can be had at all times in sufficient quantity to carry on operations upon the largest scale.

Sinaloa is bounded on the north and northeast by the States of Sonora and Chihuahua, on the east by the State of Durango, on the south by Nayarit and on the west by the Pacific Ocean and the Gulf of California. Its total area is 27,553 square miles. The latest census, taken in 1910, gave the total population as 323,499, almost equally divided between males and females. The general topographical condition of the State is mountainous, the land rising gradually from the gulf coast to the Sierra Madre, which traverses the State north and south and are the mother range of this region. Tributary ranges are the Sanabari Mountains, the Gacopira, Aguablanca, Cosala, Guadalupe de los Reyes, Tasajera, Navaschiste, Cuitaboa and Tescalama. These systems embrace several peaks and plateaus.

Sinaloa is one of the best-watered portions of the Republic, many of its rivers, such as the Fuerte and the Sinaloa, being navigable to some extent for light-draft vessels. All streams rise in the Sierra Madre and empty in the Gulf of California, the principal being: the Fuerte, 416 miles in length; the Sinaloa, 216 miles; the Mocorito, 67 miles; the Culiacan, 157 miles; the Quila, 77 miles; the Elota, 137 miles; the Praxtle, 126 miles; the Presidio, or Mazatlan, 104 miles; the Chametla, or Rosario, 103 miles, and the Canoas, or Telepan, 95 miles. These rivers all have many tributaries and there are in addition 200 smaller streams traversing the State. There are no lakes, but several mineral springs exist. In fact there are very few portions of the Republic which are better watered or present greater opportunities for irrigation or for development than the State of Sinaloa.

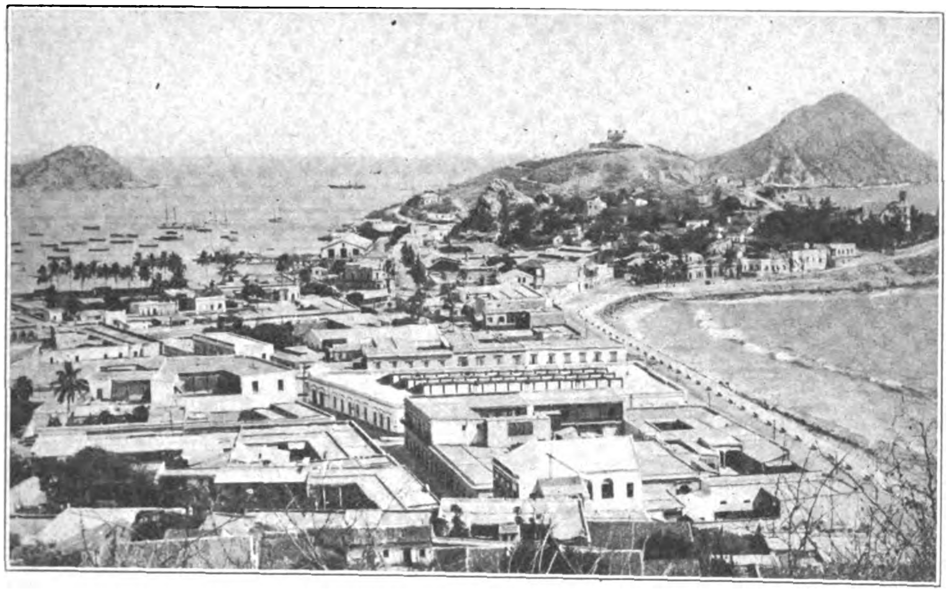
This State as to products may be divided into a western or maritime region, admirably adapted for all kinds of tropical and subtropical growths, and an interior highland region, at present very little developed except as regards its wonderful mineral resources. The chief products of the lowlands are corn, beans, tobacco, sugar cane, garbanzas (chick peas), wheat, some cotton, coffee and various fruits. Henequen is cultivated, but only to a small degree, although undoubtedly it has a great future in this State. Large areas of



View in the Port of Mazatlan

forests and many of the hardwoods, as well as better quality pines and oaks, exist in large quantity and are of decided commercial value, although lack of railway facilities retards their development.

Mining is and always has been the principal industry of Sinaloa and it is claimed to be one of the richest regions in Mexico. Gold, silver, copper, iron and lead are the minerals produced. The best-known mining camps are the Fuerte, Sinaloa, Mocorito, Cosala, San Ignacio, Concordia and Rosario, although there are many others equally deserving of mention. The mining town of Fuerte in the extreme north of the State, about 155 miles from Culiacan, the capital, has veins principally bearing silver, although there are placer mines in the district producing gold and many promising copper deposits which have been opened to a small extent. Sinaloa, 87 miles north of Culiacan, has a number of gold-bearing veins. Mocorito, 56 miles north of Culiacan, has gold, silver and copper mines. Near Palmerito, about 30 miles north of Culiacan, silver and lead are found in good quantity. The Culiacan district itself has mines that are rich in gold and silver. Cosala, 56 miles west of Culiacan, has some of the most famous mines of the State, with gold, silver and copper. San Ignacio, 50 miles south of Cosala, has veins practically of gold. Mazatlan, in the district averaging 50 miles northward of the seaport of the name, has rich copper deposits. Concordia, the same distance to the west, has silver with some gold. Rosario, the most southern district of the State, has both gold and silver deposits.



City and Harbor of Mazatlan

The seacoast of Sinaloa measures over 300 miles and is well supplied with bays and natural harbors. There are three ports of entry, namely, Mazatlan, Altata and Topolobampo. Mazatlan is the chief port and is the most important town of the State, containing a Customs House, Chamber of Commerce, banks, good public buildings, various extensive manufacturing enterprises and is also a railroad division point, with shops, etc. A good sewerage system has been installed and extensive harbor improvements are projected and will soon be under way, if, indeed, work has not already been commenced. It is the distributing center for a large interior area and through it is carried on extensive foreign trade.

The Southern Pacific Railroad of Mexico traverses the entire State from the northwest to the southeast and has its terminus at Nogales, on the boundary line between the Republics, from which point a direct line runs to and beyond the city of Tepic, capital of the State of Nayarit, and will be extended from there across the mountains to a direct connection with Guadalajara and thence to Mexico City. A short line of railroad connects Culiacan and the port of Altata, about 40 miles distant. This line, by the way, is chiefly notable for the fact that a very large portion of the track was laid on ties of ebony, which have been in place for many years and bid fair to last for many years longer.

Culiacan, the capital of the State, is one of the most interesting cities on the West Coast. Tradition has it that it was the first place at which the Aztecs halted on their way from their unknown sources in the northwest to their equally unknown destination in the south while they were in pursuit of that legend which finally brought them to the valley of Mexico. In the vicinity of Culiacan various rock inscriptions and other indications have been found which date back to the time of the Aztecs and perhaps even prior thereto.

The entire West Coast affords an interesting field for the archaeologist, although but little has been done in that direction.

A Congress of Workingmen from all portions of the Republic was held at Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila during the first twelve days of May. One hundred and eleven delegates were present and all branches of industrial occupations were represented. Among the important topics discussed were the hygiene of the working classes and their homes, with compensation for injuries and illness, colonies, etc.

Movement and Coinage of Specie

The Treasury Department has issued a statement of the coinage and movement of specie which is full of interest.

From the 1st of January to the 30th of June, 1917, the mint turned out $13,980,000 in gold coin. From the 1st of July, 1917, to the 12th of April, 1918, the output of the mint was $40,665,000 in gold coin, or a total of $54,645,000. From the 1st of July, 1917, to the 12th of April, 1918, there was coined from bullion of national production $16,800,000, and from gold of foreign production (recoinage) $23,865,000. The total of gold coinage from January 1, 1917, to April 12, 1918, was $95,310,000.

From the 1st of July, 1917, to the 31st of January, 1918, there were exported silver pesos and bar silver to the amount of $40,000,000. During the last three months the exportation of silver has averaged five millions of ounces monthly, of a value of $7,000,000. From August 1, 1917, to January 31, 1918, there was exported in bars, minerals and concentrates, and mixed with other metals, gold to the amount of $4,700,000.

Note.—The foregoing figures are all in Mexican gold. To obtain the equivalent in American gold, they should be divided by two, the ratio of the metallic currency of both countries being two to one.

A commission composed of Secretary Manuel Aguirre Berlanga, Secretary of the Department of the Interior; General Candido Aguilar, Secretary of Foreign Relations; Ing. Alberto J. Pani, Secretary of Industry and Commerce, and Rafael Nieto, Sub-Secretary of the Treasury, has for some time been in conference with Ambassador Fletcher, discussing means for bringing about better commercial relations between the two countries. The utmost harmony has prevailed and the best results are expected from the consultations.

Street Scene in Mazatlan

Training Orphan Children

A School in Culiacan That Is Accomplishing Much Good in Educating Orphans and Others

A CORRESPONDENT of THE MEXICAN REVIEW, who recently visited the City of Culiacan, capital of the State of Sinaloa, writes that while there he was invited to inspect the industrial military school known as the "Francisco Cañedo." This institution was established and is supported by the Government of the State of Sinaloa under the direct instruction of Governor Ramon F. Iturbe and is making rapid progress under such patronage. At present there are 75 children in attendance from the ages of 8 to 14. The greater part of these are orphans, or are from the poorer families of the different districts who have sent them here to be educated. Captain Jose Maria Lujan, the principal of the school, takes a paternal interest in his pupils, but requires them to conform to the strict military discipline necessary in an institution of this character.

Captain Jose Maria Lujan

There has been established an extensive course of study, consisting of a primary and preparatory department, military drills and exercises, lineal drawing, as well as sketches from figures and landscapes, the theory and harmony of music, etc. In fact all branches of education are adapted to the pupils. They have a cornet and tambourine band, a military band and a string orchestra, thus demonstrating their natural capacity for music, as well as showing the good effects of training in this art.

Besides the features already spoken of, the boys are trained in various handicrafts, such as carpentry, tinning, printing, farming in all its branches, manufacture of shoes, the making of bells, etc. Classes are also taught in telegraphy, while a department is given up to instruction in cooking and the baking of bread, with good results.

It was noticeable that all the pupils seemed imbued with earnestness and took great pleasure in their work. They demonstrated the greatest respect and affection for their principal, to whom was plainly due the order and discipline, as well as the cleanliness, that reigned through all departments. The bright countenances of the pupils revealed their health and contentment and showed in a very apparent manner the results of their training. This school deserves more attention from the people of that region, as well as from the Federal Government, and with proper support could be made to produce the very best possible results for the State and nation in the education and training of the children of families which are unable to provide therefor in a proper manner.

Garbanzos, Dyestuffs and Fresh Vegetables

ADVICES from Guamochil, in the State of Sinaloa, a station on the Southern Pacific of Mexico, where that road crosses the Mocorito River, are to the effect that the people there are having good times, and the town has experienced quite a boom. A large garbanzo crop raised on the fertile bottom lands of the Mocorito River is in course of harvesting, giving employment to large forces of laborers; and garbanzo buyers are disbursing funds in purchase of the crop—all of which puts into circulation large sums of money and gives rise to prosperity galore. The traffic in garbanzos alone runs into hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

Another important resource is the dyewood industry, the forests in the back country, stretching from the valley of the Mocorito southward to La Cruz, having an abundance of trees the barks of which are valuable for dyestuffs; and the town of Guamochil is their market. A New York firm has at Guamochil a representative whose purchases and shipments of the wood and bark are valued at many thousands of dollars annually.

The resources described have given goodly growth to Guamochil, which a few years ago was only a side track and telegraph office. Now it is quite a town.

A return to something like normal conditions along the West Coast of Mexico is indicated by the increased movement of Mexican fruits and vegetables to this country.

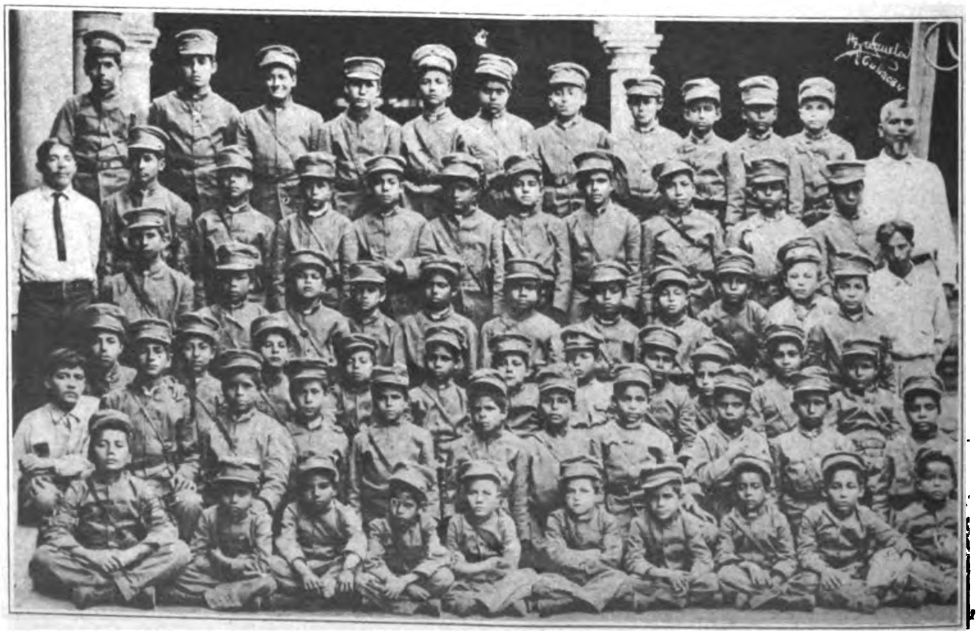
Tomatoes and vegetables coming from the south, which have gone through without icing, are iced at Nogales now, and every day there are strings of cars at the icing platform of the Arizona Gas & Electric Company receiving a supply of refrigeration.

At the offices of the Southern Pacific here recently it was stated that in the last three months 198 carloads of vegetables, principally tomatoes, have been brought from Mexico to this country by the Pacific Fruit Express. This is five times the business handled last year.

The Government recently issued import licenses authorizing the handling of fruit and vegetables from Mexico to the United States and the development of this movement is regarded with general satisfaction.

With normal conditions in Mexico, traffic men say that the vegetable business would develop into thousands of cars annually.—*Nogales (Arizona) Oasis.*

Steamers calling at the gulf ports have recently had difficulty in securing coal sufficient for their voyages, and as a result the management of the National Railway lines has taken steps to ship large quantities from the coal fields of the State of Coahuila to all points where fuel is needed for foreign commerce. The supply in the northern portion of the Republic is practically unlimited.


Orphan Children in Culiacan Training School

Mexican Products Exhibition

Recently Established in the City of San Francisco, Under the Direction of Secretary A. J. Pani

UNDER instructions from Secretary A. J. Pani of the Department of Industry and Commerce of Mexico, a Mexican Products Exhibition has been established in San Francisco. Its object is to present to the notice of the American people the vast natural resources of Mexico and to encourage and promote international trade between the two Republics, as that will undoubtedly benefit the exporters and importers of both countries. To that end, and in order that it may become a center of information regarding all Mexican industries, it is absolutely necessary to have the co-operation of all the farmers, manufacturers, miners and merchants, and it is to their advantage to send samples of their respective products, carefully prepared and packed, with their corresponding descriptions, to the Mexican Products Exhibition, inasmuch as it is for the benefit of the nation as well as private concerns.

Mexican producers are earnestly exhorted to set aside personal and party prejudices, and patriotically as well as from a purely commercial point of view, to send their exhibits to the Exhibition, whose national and private importance is evident and unquestionable, and whose disinterested and gratuitous services and efforts will result in great benefit, especially at the present time when the world war is creating many opportunities for Mexican industry and export trade.

It is a well-known fact that the Argentine Republic and particularly the United States of America owe their wonderful progress and material greatness to the exportation of their products. Mexico, owing to its geographical situation and immense natural wealth, is unquestionably destined to occupy a prominent place among the producing countries of the world in the near future. It is necessary then to make its merchandise broadly known.

The press of the Republic of Mexico is appealed to, to the end that without distinction of creed or party it give the greatest publicity to this project, with the object of stimulating the interest of the promoters of the country so that they may send exhibits of all articles that it is convenient to export, such as hardwoods and lumber, ores and minerals, textile fiber, cotton, oil, rubber, tinctoria plants, hides and leather, cereals, etc., etc.

Parties interested in sending shipments to the Exhibition may do so, directly consigning them to the "Mexican Products Exhibition" (which is the title of the same in English), Commercial Building, 833 Market Street, San Francisco, California.

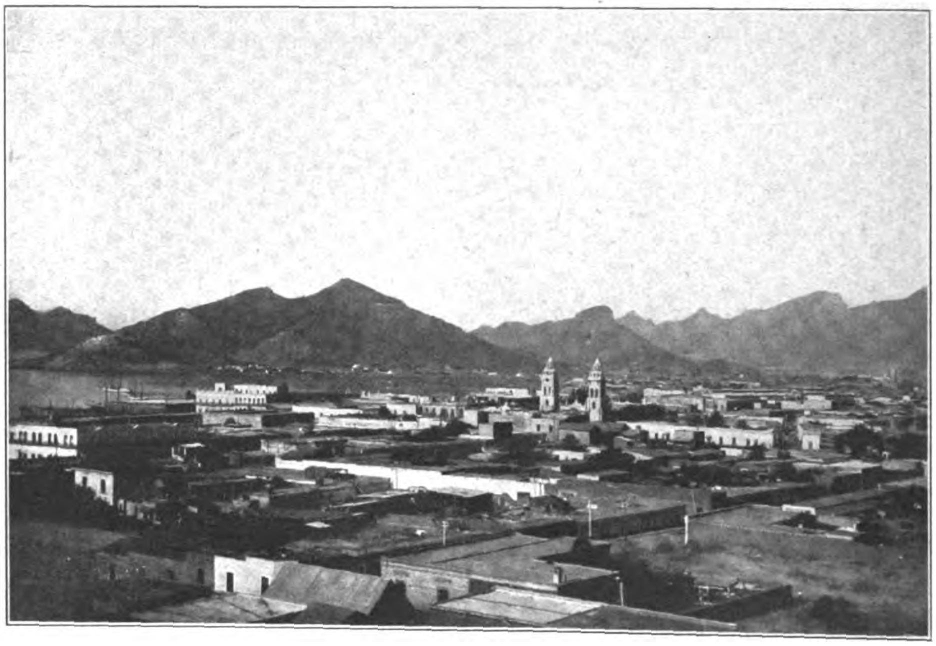
According to the place of shipment, all remittances must be addressed in care of the Mexican Consul at any of the frontier points —Matamoras, Laredo, Eagle Pass or El Paso, Nogales, Arizona, etc., and if sent by water then they should be consigned to a customs broker of the port of shipment to be forwarded to San Francisco.

With the above instructions and a little good will on the part of the producers, the result aimed at will be accomplished. Producers should always bear in mind that this is a national Exhibition and they must therefore throw aside all prejudice of a political or other nature. It is the only way to obtain practical results in a brief period.

At all times the task of getting together an exhibit has been a difficult and laborious one in Mexico. Even during the past régime great difficulty was encountered in obtaining the Exhibit sent to the Paris Exposition, and at that time no one tried to excuse himself from helping. Pretexts and excuses of a political nature, with the end of not furnishing exhibits at the present time, have no reason to exist, as the question now is to serve the Mexican nation, its economic interests and those of the people that are in a position to promote them and should do so.

It is hoped that this appeal, which is made to the producers with absolute good feeling, will meet with their cordial approval and all who are able to respond to the appeal will do so without delay. This enterprise will undoubtedly produce the most gratifying economic results.

Mr. Lazaro Basch, Commercial Agent of the Department of Industry and Commerce, is in charge of this Exhibition, and although he is an Alsatian of French descent, he has become a Mexican citizen by naturalization and is an enthusiastic propagandist of that country which is now his home by adoption. His offices and the Exhibition are located in the center of the city in the handsome Commercial Building, 833 Market Street, and Mr. Basch is actively working to make a success of this enterprise.



View of the City and Port of Guaymas

Labor Delegates Going On a Mission to Mexico

American Federation of Labor Sends a Special Commission

TO meet and confer with the organized workers of Mexico, Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, has appointed a commission to go to Mexico City, consisting of James Lord, President of the Mining Department of the A. F. of L.; Santiago Iglesias, President of the Free Federation of Workingmen of Porto Rico, and John Murray, Secretary of the Pan-American Federation of Labor Conference Committee.

To first establish fraternal relations with Mexico's Unions, Syndicates and confederations of labor, and finally to extend the Pan-American Federation of Labor to the labor movements of all Latin-American countries, is the main purpose of the Commission.

The Commission carries letters of introduction to President Carranza and the leading men of Mexico, also credentials to organized workers of the Southern Republic.

A million and a half Mexicans are to-day living in the United States, a large majority of whom are wage workers. In Arizona, the Mexican miners, organized in the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' International Union, and affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, practically control by their numerical strength the State Federation of Labor. These Spanish speaking workers in the United States expect much benefit from the work of the Commission in making plain the unity of interests of all workers, both north and south of the border.

Among recent additions to the educational and social features of Tampico are a Y. M. C. A. and a school for the education of foreign children.

The Hampton Institute

Commendable Educational Work That Is Worthy of Widespread Imitation in Other Countries

BY WM. ANTHONY AERY

WITHIN fifty-five years American Negroes have acquired over $700,000,000 worth of property. They have shown a correspondingly keen interest in education and have reduced their illiteracy from nearly 100 per cent to less than 30 per cent.

The per capita wealth, however, among nearly 12,000,000 American Negroes is small, and there is still a great need for giving colored boys and girls that "training of the head, heart, and hand" which has been so characteristic of all Hampton's effort, since 1868, under the wise, Christian leadership of Samuel C. Armstrong and Hollis B. Frissell.

The Present Armstrong-Slater Memorial Trade School

Service to the Nation

Hampton Institute, the pioneer industrial school for the training of colored and Indian youth, which is situated on the Lower Peninsula of Virginia, is now preparing for intelligent public service and at the expense of generous citizens who represent many sections and classes, some 900 earnest Negroes and a small group of Indians in its Boarding Department.

Between four and five hundred colored boys and girls attend the community graded school, known as "The Whittier School," which "offers excellent opportunities for the training of teachers under natural conditions."

The Hampton boys and girls are making a brave struggle to become leaders in community improvement work and efficient homemakers.

Over one hundred and fifty Hampton men are already in the United States Army and Navy doing their bit—intelligently and cheerfully—to make the world safe for democracy.

A Paying Investment

For nearly fifty years, through the co-operation and support of many of the best people of America, Hampton Institute has been training young people for unselfish and reliable service to their respective races and to their white neighbors.

The training of an army of over 2000 graduates and nearly 8000 former students—"soldiers of the common good"—represents a vast sum of money and effort which the American public has invested in carefully selected, ambitious colored and Indian youth.

Increased returns from farm lands, the multiplication and improvement of public schools, the building of good churches, the establishment of clean, pure homes—these are some of the fruits of the "Hampton Spirit."

Northern Half of the Hampton Institute Water Front

Training Race Leaders

Dr. Frissell, shortly before his death in August, 1917, said: "Tell the American people that Hampton is a war measure." He believed Hampton must always do its share in training leaders for service to the nation.

Indeed, Hampton has always stood for sound ideas—the dignity of labor, the joy of service, the sacredness of opportunity, the love of the Master. Hampton has made its workers and students feel a definite responsibility for making a real contribution to the improvement and happiness of American life.

Hampton Preparedness

The late Dr. Hollis B. Frissell, principal of Hampton from 1893 to 1917, said in his last report to the trustees:

"We hear much, in these days of preparedness for service, of how young people can be trained so as to be of the greatest possible use to their community and their country. This is the keynote of Hampton.

"Because of the pressing demand upon Hampton for teachers and industrial leaders, and because the school will apparently work to greater advantage with more pupils, the Board of Trustees and the Faculty have decided that a movement shall be made toward a Greater Hampton.

"The Ogden Auditorium, situated at a strategic point between the North and South, will provide a meeting place for representatives of different sections and different races, where the great social, economic, industrial, and agricultural problems of the Southern country can be discussed to the best advantage.

"It is doubtful if any form of preparedness, especially in the South, is more important than that of fitting young men and women to help their people solve the problems of rural Southern life.

"The erection of the school's new buildings has given the students of the Trade School excellent opportunities for practice. James Hall, the boys' new dormitory, is the largest and most difficult piece of construction the trade students have ever attempted, and has been reported upon most favorably by the architects.

"The attempt to lift the laundry, the industrial sewing room, the dressmaking shop, the tea house, and other departments representing the practical side of domestic science and art, from a tiresome routine into a means of mental and moral development, is deserving of all sympathy and help.

"In ten Southern States, efficient, devoted

Southern white men, State supervisors of rural schools, are making a brave struggle for broader and better Negro education, and are calling upon Hampton to furnish, as teachers, men and women who have learned how to relate the school to the community."

Modern Equipment

The Robert C. Ogden Auditorium, designed by Ludlow & Peabody, of New York, is now well under way to completion. It will accommodate some 2500 persons and will cost about $200,000. The money was raised by popular subscription. Gifts have come from white, colored, and Indian friends.

An Instructor's House and the Students Who Built It

The General Education Board of New York has donated $25,000. The interest from this fund will be used for the maintenance of the Ogden Auditorium.

Students of the Hampton Institute Trade School have been working for some months on the new Administration Building.

They are also engaged in placing a new water tank on the tower of "Stone Building," which is one of the larger dormitories for boys. This tank will be used in connection with the sprinkler system for fire protection which is to be installed in the auditorium.

James Hall, the building of which was made possible through the gift of the late Mrs. Willis D. James of New York, is a modern, fire-proof dormitory which accommodates about 175 boys. It was built by Hampton Institute students.

Mrs. John S. Kennedy of New York, through a similar gift, will make possible the building of new dormitories for the Hampton girls.

Clarke Hall, a two-story brick building, which is another Hampton Trade School product, was the first Negro student Y. M. C. A. building in this country.

Recently 250 acres adjacent to "Shellbanks," the Hampton Institute farm, which is some six miles out from Hampton, have been acquired to give more Hampton students practical training in farming.

Hampton Institute also has a modern cold-storage equipment, as well as facilities for making steam, ice, and electricity.

Hampton Institute is, in short, an industrial village, and "an educational demonstration center where three races work out daily, with a minimum of friction, the problems of every-day life."

Aim of Hampton

General Armstrong described the aim of Hampton in these striking words: "To train selected youth who shall go out and teach and lead their people, first by example by getting lands and homes; to give them not a dollar that they can earn for themselves; to teach respect for labor; to replace stupid drudgery with skilled hands; and to these ends to build up an industrial system, for the sake not only of self-support and intelligent labor, but also for the sake of character."

Harvesting Sweet Potatoes

This aim was not changed by Dr. Frissell. It was developed, however, with rare skill and wisdom through his remarkable principalship of nearly twenty-five years.

Some Results

Hampton has always emphasized the importance of self-sacrifice and service. Dr. Booker T. Washington, who founded Tuskegee Institute, and Dr. Robert R. Moton, who has succeeded Dr. Washington as principal of Tuskegee, were both trained at Hampton under General Armstrong and Doctor Frissell.

Hampton students have been fitted for life. They have also been trained to live for others. Throughout the South and West especially, there are many communities which have been literally reconstructed through the patient, thoughtful, and persistent work of Hampton graduates and former students.

Training Leaders

Since Hampton Institute aims to train young people to earn an honest living and help improve the economic and social conditions of their respective races, the courses of study combine industrial training with academic work.

The regular courses are four years in length, and include Academic-Normal, Agricultural, Business, and Trade courses in any one of the following thirteen trades: Blacksmithing; Bricklaying and Plastering; Cabinetmaking; Carpentry; Machine Work; Painting; Printing; Shoemaking; Steamfitting and Plumbing; Tailoring; Tinsmithing; Upholstery; and Wheelwrighting. Through the Hampton courses young men and women are trained to earn an honest living by practicing a useful vocation.

Training for Girls

Colored and Indian girls at Hampton receive thorough training in cooking, sewing, laundering work, gardening, and methods of teaching.

In the Domestic Science Work Class, for example, "the girls work daily for twelve months in the laundry and in the boarding departments under the supervision of experienced teachers, and carry on their academic studies in the evening the same as the boys in the Work Class.

"The mental and moral training that the year of combined work and study gives makes it one of the most valuable years of the course. The working day for the girl is shorter than for the boys; but a girl can earn from $15 to $18 a month. This enables her to be entirely self-supporting during her first year in school, and to accumulate a balance toward defraying the expenses of the second year.

"In the Academic-Normal course girls receive training in Agriculture, Art, Bible, Business Transactions, English, Geography, History, Home Economics, Physical Training, Sociology, and training in teaching." The object of all Hampton's work is to fit leaders for service to their communities.

Tributes to Hampton

Some interesting tributes have been paid to Hampton and its constructive work.

President Wilson has said: "The people who are aiding Hampton Institute are doing a really great work for their country."

Former President Taft, who is the president of the Hampton board of trustees, says: "Hampton is small compared with many great universities, but it is not the size, it is the type, it is the method, it is the result in the individual, that gives it to-day the right to be considered the most important single institution of learning in this country."

Education for Service

Through General Armstrong and Doctor Frissell, as well as a large company of devoted workers and friends, Hampton Institute has rendered a significant service to the nation (1) by training thousands of colored and Indian youth to believe in themselves and in their races; (2) by teaching hundreds of thousands of white people to believe in members of the red and black races; and (3) by helping to reshape public opinion, not only in matters of racial good will, but also in matters of sound educational policy.

Doctor Frissell's stirring words will live on and on: "Out from Hampton there are going every year young people who carry the thought of service to others—the thought which Christ brought into the world when He said, 'Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; and whosoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it.'"

Under instructions from the President, work upon the improvement of the port of Guaymas, in Sonora, has been recommenced after a cessation of several months. A large amount of commerce will be handled at that place as soon as the work shall have been completed.

Under the present government the old prison of Belen, in Mexico City, was some time ago transformed into a public bathing place, and records show that during a single month over sixteen thousand persons took advantage of the facilities thus presented.

By order of the City Council of Monterrey all timepieces in that place were on March 16th advanced one hour. This is declared to be the first instance of the kind on this continent.

Editor Palavicini Explains His Mission

He Sets at Rest Some Incorrect Statements in the Press

MR. FELIX F. PALAVICINI, former Director of *"El Universal,"* the leading daily newspaper of Mexico City, which was founded by him, is paying Washington a visit. In response to a question concerning some sensational statements regarding him that have appeared in the press, Mr. Palavicini expressed himself as follows to a representative of the Mexican News Bureau:

"The statements attributed to me by some American newspapers are not exact; some of them have printed only one half of what they heard, and others have published words which I never expressed.

"It is true that I defended valiantly in Mexico the cause of the Allies, considering that a democracy, as Mexico aspires to be, should sympathize with free peoples, and not with the Prussian militarism, with the Teutonic caesarism, and with the brutal methods of conquest applied by Germany upon small nations.

"Away from my country, I shall not devote my attention to Mexican politics, and furthermore, I will not attack the Constitutionalist Government of Mexico, because I believe that the only manner of educating the Mexican people in the doctrines of democracy, is by teaching them to respect and sustain the authorities, during all the time for which they are legally elected.

"My object in coming to the United States is that of establishing a magazine, which will be known as *"El Universal,"* written in Spanish, and will circulate throughout Spain and the twenty-one Latin American Republics. The policy of the magazine will be in accordance with my convictions; that is, it shall defend the liberty and sovereigty of all peoples."

The recent earthquakes which occurred in Southern California were plainly registered at the meteorological station at Tacubaya, a suburb of Mexico City.

To Gather Crop Statistics

The National Chamber of Commerce has sent circulars to all the subsidiary organizations of that character throughout the Republic, asking them to send in promptly complete statistics covering the area and probable yield of various crops. By this means it is hoped to be able to arrange in advance for the shipment of surplus products in one section to others where there is a lack from whatever cause. In the past there has been great difficulty on this account. Because of lack of previous arrangement shortage of crops has caused suffering in some sections, while in others there was a plethora. This will be avoided in the future so far as possible. Already it is announced that the coming crops in most districts will be greater than ever before.

The Trade School Press Room Where the School Publications Are Printed

Annual Meeting of Stockholders

On April 24th the annual meeting of the stockholders of the National Railway lines of Mexico was held at the general offices in Mexico City. Carlos Basave y del Castillo Negrete acted as President and the following were elected as Directors: Messrs. Justo Acevedo, Carlos Basave y del Castillo Negrete, Henry Bruere, Dr. A. E. Caturegli, Adolfo de la Huerta, Elias S. A. de Lima, Lic. Aquiles Elorduy, General Pablo Gonzales, Lic. Fernando Gonzales Roa, Jerome J. Hanauer, Jesse Hirschman, Thomas P. Honey, Leonor F. Loree, Mario Mendez, Rafael Nieto, Ing. Alberto J. Pani, Ing. Francisco Puga, Ignacio S. Rodriguez, Walter T. Rosen, General Jacinto B. Treviño, Henry H. Wehrhane.

Besides the election of the Board of Directors, other business matters of importance were discussed.

The Workingmen's Congress of the State of Yucatan recently held a session in the city of Motul, which was attended by representatives of over 26,000 organized laborers of all branches of industry. Many projects for the betterment of the laboring classes were discussed and adopted.

"Only a Greaser!"

A Story of Love and Fidelity That Could Be Duplicated a Thousand Times Over

BY A. D. TEMPLE, EAGLE PASS, TEXAS

"The soldiers have learned in Mexico: That the average civilian Mexican is not a bloodthirsty wretch stained with all the crimes for which the bandit Mexican is famous—that the Mexican civilian, especially the peon and small farmer, is ordinarily a simple-minded, good-humored child of nature."—(Gregory Mason in *The Outlook*, May 31.)

HE WAS but a boy of fifteen, whose girl-like voice, large, dark eyes, with long curling lashes, soft black wavy hair and small stature, gave him an effeminate air in sharp contradiction to his stern calling.

For Manuel was a *Conductor*. Not what we Americans raised in a land of peace and security understand from that word. He was no "Knight of the Bell Cord," but in the old days of chivalry, his brave undaunted spirit might well have won him the spurs and title of a "Belted Knight."

He, with his father and grandfather, were the mounted and armed guards of the "*Conducta*" or treasure train, that carried the bars of gold and silver bullion from the mines, far away in the almost inaccessible fastnesses of the western Sierra Madre, delivering them at the mint in Durango, and on their return journey, guarding with their weapons and lives the coined dollars, miscellaneous supplies, and merchandise required in a mining camp.

The coming of the *Conducta* was the monthly event that broke the monotony of life in solitary, prosperous and unconventional Ventanas, nestling at the bottom of the mile-deep gash in the Sierra where the foaming, rushing river, in the ages, had cut its way through to the sea, and the gray, bare peaks of El Tejon and El Gato towered up 'neath the tropic skies like sleep-weary sentinels of an ancient treasure house that was being looted as they slept.

It was Ventanas' only link with the outside world of civilization and progress, save the chance arrival of some wandering prospector, or a secretive stranger, seeking rest and seclusion from the impertinent and pertinacious proximity of officers of law and justice.

But the *Conducta* brought the latest news, hardly a week old, with luxuries for the men and finery for the women. Had it not brought a real and genuine lady's hat for the frail and fair Amada, the belle of the camp? And thus marked an epoch in the annals of fashionable society, and causing heartburnings and rivalries that still burn unquenched.

The conservative ladies holding, with centuries of precedent to sustain them, that a man's high-crowned, broad-brimmed sombrero, trimmed with gold and silver *galon*, worn on out-of-doors festal occasions, was the acme of refined elegance and fashion. While the liberals and progressives adopted with open arms and smiling faces the new and coquettish *sombreros Americanos*, wearing them, more frequently than not, the reverse of the way that nature or the designer had intended.

It had brought the real chairs, made in a factory, and painted and gilded, that in the house of Don Arturo, the gringo assayer, had displaced the rude rustic seats made by the mine carpenters, and covered with the untanned hides of deer, bear and panther, trophies of the chase among the peaks and crags that threw their shadows over the town.

It was the advance wave of civilization and the railroads lapping softly at the rocky barriers that would forever turn the course of the iron way and shut out the shrill shriek of the locomotive's whistle.

When some keen-eyed watcher gave the word that the *Conducta* was coming, all Ventanas forgot momentarily to gossip of the every-day themes of interest, such as the last shooting scrape, the new bonanza discovered in the Concepcion Mine, or that subject of ever-burning interest to the female population, the latest love affair of Don Jorge, the gallant and strenuous superintendent of the mines, and gathered on the Plaza to receive and welcome the cavalcade, as with father, son and grandson at the front, as was their right, and the sweating pack-mules following them, the *Conducta* drew up in front of the "Tienda de Raya."

Who could blame Manuel if just before the halt he spurred his spirited little horse on the off-side, unseen by the spectators, causing it to rear, plunge and curvet, while he sat firm and straight in the saddle with the graceful unconscious ease of the born horseman?

As they dismounted, Don Santiago, the grandfather, tall, straight and vigorous, in spite of his threescore years and ten, tanned to the color of an old saddle, in a lifetime's exposure to the elements, on plain and mountain, in storm and sunshine, embraced and saluted his waiting friends with the grave and courteous politeness characteristic of his race, and afterwards answered their eager questions about the outside world, beyond the sky-piercing peaks that hemmed them in.

Don Pancho, his stalwart son, bronze-faced, with jet black hair and moustache, and flashing eyes and teeth, agile and fearless as a tiger, but gentle and kind as a woman to his friends, also took active part in the hand-shaking and salutations; here delivering a message from some distant friend, and there giving some special commission to its owner, a bright-eyed and young *realinga*, as he did so filling her ears with gay badinage, she listening with a coquettish smile 'neath the folds of her silken reboso, or perhaps to another, speaking with both swiftly moving hands and lips, explained why the long-delayed *encargo* (commission) had not arrived, and promised it for the next trip "*Seguro, si, sin falta.*"

And Manuel? He stood by his horse's head, the bridle reins in his hands, quiet and demure, saluting an acquaintance now and then with a low word or a smile, quite unaware apparently of the envious looks and low-voiced comments of the lookers-on of his own age, who either ran at large on the streets, or carried rocks and sorted ore in the mines, for between them was a deep gulf of caste distinction, quite as clearly recognized as among those reared in an ultra-high civilization. He was a *Conductor,* a fighting man, and they were naught but mine laborers.

But after the mules were unloaded, the sacks of silver pesos counted and delivered, as well as the merchandise, rifles, pistols, saddles, with all their other equipment carefully laid away until the return journey and the saddle animals and pack mules turned into the corral, where with feed and water in abundance they enjoyed their well-earned rest; then Manuel relaxed his dignity and reserve, as he called on his friend and oracle, Don Arturo, the American assayer, who had himself but so lately emerged from boyhood's realm that he was a sympathetic and interested listener to Manuel's accounts of the only world he knew, and more than willing to describe the wonders of that great outside world about which Manuel questioned him so eagerly, but with politely disguised incredulity at the unbelievable marvels of which Don Arturo spoke so familiarly.

Manuel comfortably seated, and cigarro lit, told of the incidents of the trip through the Sierra. Of the mule that was lifted by the free-booting gentry of that rancho of evil repute, La Cienaguita, and that was promptly recovered through skilful tracking and an over-close rifle shot or two at the marauders. Of the bear they found in the swamp at La Rusia, of the chase over rocks and fallen tree trunks, of the scrimmage, and his final escape wounded and bleeding, but still dangerous, into the deep barranca where horsemen could not follow.

Of the deer shot by the trail as they rode along. Of the bandits reported haunting the ranges, their leader the notorious Heraclio Bernal, the "Robin Hood" of the Sierra, and then, his news budget exhausted, he called on his friend for facts as to the outside world with its wonders of nature and of civilization.

Was it true that *El Mar* (The Ocean) that one could see from El Cumbre, forty leagues to the westward from where the Ventanas trail cuts off from the Camino Real, was so deep and wide that a boat traveling day and night faster than a horse could run, would take a month to reach the other shore? And was it so deep that the spire of the cathedral in Durango could be hidden ten times over in its depths?

Now, his mind unburdened of his doubts, although but half believing his oracle's affirmative replies, his curiosity turned to less important facts. Did the boys in *Nueva York* play with *caniques* (clay marbles) just the same as they did in Durango? And was it also true that there they never ate *tortillas,* but only *pan blanco* (white bread)? Such luxury was to him almost unimaginable, and after a long, thoughtful pause he suggested softly that perhaps the American ladies did not know how to make tortillas, and hence the absence of that indispensable mainstay of life.

Don Arturo's concise and cynical demolishment of this theory, as in imagination he saw his own delicate, refined and intellectual sister called from her settlement work or art studies to bend over a Mexican *metate,* dispelled his doubts by making them a certainty, and Manuel with native tact changed the subject and shortly was again the questioned, in place of questioner, as he told of his home and mother.

He described the dark, dingy house with its high-walled corral, of the baby brother that crawled unheeded and unhurt among the half-broken mules and horses of the *caballada,* of his two little sisters, still too young to help their mother with the household drudgery.

He told of the dog that guarded the family in the absence of the men folk, of the strayed calf that he had found standing by its dead mother and had "mavericked" to save it from starvation or the wolves, and brought home across his saddle; of the yellow-headed parrot from Tampico, that after glibly repeating the *Padre Nuestro* with devout intonation, was liable to break forth in a stream of fluent profanity if its breakfast was not immediately forthcoming; of the colt that he was breaking, trapped from the famous band of wild horses on the Braña range, and that was now almost gentle enough to ride over the mountain trails; the next trip he might ride it—perhaps.

When Don Arturo interrupted him with "Manuel, you are very young to be a *Conductor;* you should be at school as I was at your age." His reply was: "But we have many mouths to feed, and I am the oldest son; I must help my father." "And if the bandits attack the train, will you fight, *Manuelito?*" He drew up his slight, boyish figure proudly, and his big dark eyes under their curling lashes flashed as he answered: "I will fight! I am a Rojas, and no Rojas has ever been called a coward! My father and grandfather say that we must defend the silver, or leave our dead bodies by the side of the empty sacks; for that, we ride good horses and carry the best of arms, and are not required to work like the *arrieros* (muleteers)."

And Don Arturo knew that the boy spoke from his heart, and would make good, if put to the proof, but little suspecting that the test was to be made within a few short weeks.

When a load of silver bullion was again ready, and the animals, rested and cured of the saddle galls and bruises of the road, were saddled and loaded for the return journey, they mounted, and were off.

Slowly they climbed up the battlemented mountain walls until Ventanas looking like an ant-hill in the shadow of the peaks disappeared at last behind El Cerro del Ojito; then for days across the flat, mesa-topped mountains, in the shade of pine and oak, where the golden eagles wheeled high overhead, and deer, bear and panther fled at their approach, while squirrels peered down and barked at them impudently from the lofty trees; now and again they descended in dark, gloomy cañons, in whose depths ice-cold mountain streams rushed around boulders, or leaped precipices in their wild journey to the Pacific, long leagues towards the setting sun.

When at last El Rio Chico and its deep cañon was crossed, and the white spires of Durango gleamed across the brown plain on the horizon, marking their journey's end and a rest from the ceaseless vigilance of the trail; then Manuel spurred his fiery little mount ahead, and was in his mother's arms telling of the trip and being cuddled up and given sweetmeats, just like any other mother's darling, long before the bell mare with her attendant satellites, the pack mules, had left the dusty pack trail and were treading the cobblestoned streets of the city.

Manuel doffed his dignity together with his picturesque buckskin suit and wide-brimmed, bell-crowned sombrero, trimmed with silver lace.

That and his arms were laid aside and forgotten for the time, while he relaxed and played marbles, or tops, or flew kites with his boy companions, ran errands for his mother, gormandized on the mysterious sweets that are dear to Mexican children, and in all was a merry, careless, playful boy, enjoying himself to the full, until again called to his work by the notice that the *Conducta* was ready and he must again mount and ride over the long and dangerous trail.

As the last loaded mule passed out into the street, midst the cheery shouts of the arrieros, Manuel approached the black stallion colt from the Breña range, that for an hour, saddled and bridled, had been impatiently pawing and scraping round the post to which it was tethered with the nervous movements of a still half-wild animal; dexterously he slipped the blind on the hackamore over its eyes, then gathering reins and halter in his hands, with a quick spring was in the saddle, and as his feet found the stirrups, with his right hand he slipped up the blind.

Pitching, rearing and squealing, the vicious brute circled the corral, its young rider firmly seated and coolly smiling at its wild plunges, while father and grandfather mounted, and waiting, watched him in quiet pride from the gate, and his mother, love and pride, mixed with anxiety for her first born, shining in her dark eyes, looked on breathlessly from the door.

Dominating by whip and spur, Manuel guided his steed towards the gate, throwing as he did so a gay *"Adios, Mama"* to his mother—then reined in and rode back obedient to her impulsive gesture of recall.

A moment, dismounted and uncovered, on bended knees at her feet he knelt, as with streaming eyes and trembling lips she blessed him and commended him to the care of the saints.

Then, with his kiss still warm on her hands, she listened to the hoof-beats as he galloped away, until the sounds were lost in the murmur of the street traffic.

Through the crowded streets the *Conducta* passed, Manuel at his father's side, riding proudly erect in the van. By the Cathedral doors, the air heavy with incense and the rich, deep tones of the organ filling ears and heart with music that deadened the noisy clangor of the street, past the rose arbors of the beautiful Plaza Mayor, under the tall trees of the Alameda, across the white bridge of Analco; until streets and houses were left behind, and before them stretched the silent, lonely *llano* with its fringe of green, pine-covered mountain ranges, to the westward, where every stranger was judged an enemy till proved a friend, and the good old plan,

"He hath the right,
Who hath the might,
And let him keep
Who can,"

was the unwritten, common law of the land.

They traveled fast in the crisp mountain air that filled the lungs of man and beast with life and vigor, and the black scavenger birds that wheeled in circles high overhead as they followed them along caused no prophetic forebodings of death or danger.

That night they made camp in the shade of tall pines, where a wild mountain stream rushed along on its way to the Pacific, its bed made up of cascades and waterfalls, in whose shadows the mountain trout lurked, while along its banks was luxuriant pasturage for the animals.

The saddle horses were picketed with saddles and bridles close at hand ready for service at a moment's notice, but the pack mules were loosed free to graze and wander at will in the cañon.

With the first gray signs of dawn the herder reported that the mules were missing, and a well-trodden fresh trail heading for the deepest fastnesses of the Sierra explained how and why they were missing.

As the man told his story, saddles and bridles were hastily thrown on, and the three *conductores* were off in the discharge of their duty as defenders of their trust.

'Twas an easy trail to follow and they rode at a swift lope, their weapons ready for use at a moment's notice. From among the rocks and brush of a narrow cañon a bullet grazed Pancho's shoulder as a hoarse voice called on them to halt and turn back. To dismount and advance with leveled rifles was the work of a second for the three; then a second and better-aimed shot pierced Pancho's heart. Dropping his rifle he fell back a corpse in his father's arms, who, as he gently laid him on the ground, murmuring as he did so, "My son! My son!" was felled by another bullet, and both souls winged their way to eternity side by side.

Manuel, a pace or two in advance, was still untouched. A half glance behind showed him the still quivering bodies of father and grandfather, while in front floated the thin wreathes and rings of rifle smoke, as if laughing and dancing in fiendish glee over and among the rocks and brush.

What were his thoughts? Only God who received his spirit knows; steadily and coolly he emptied his rifle at the smoke puffs from behind the rocks, while the bullets crooned a devil's melody as they whistled over, under, or on either side of him, the uncertain aim of cowardly hands only delaying the end.

His magazine emptied, he threw down the useless weapon, and drawing the six-shooter from his belt, emptied it at his murderers. Then before he could turn and grasp a weapon from his dead companions, he fell forward, shot through the heart and brain.

They found them hours afterwards; the

(*Continued on page 21*)

Mexican Byways and Highways

Scenes and Experiences Away From the Usual Paths of Travelers and Writers

BY GEORGE F. WEEKS

III

In the Sierra Madre

WHAT the Sierra Nevada range is to California and the Pacific coast, the Sierra Madre is to Mexico. In fact, both ranges are practically one. To be sure, there is a break or gap in their continuity for a comparatively limited distance in Southern California, extending to Northern Sonora, where the lofty parent range gives place to broken and disconnected spurs and small mountain groups of comparatively little importance. But the "Mother Mountains," the Sierra Madre, assert themselves not far below the international line and continue all the way down to Central America, becoming loftier and loftier, rugged and still more rugged, as they reach southward, finally culminating in several volcanoes, which at times are disagreeably active.

The eastern approach to the summit of the Sierra Madre from the great central table-land is one of easy slopes and with little really difficult territory. Indeed, so gradual is the upward trend and so unbroken, much of the country being of a rolling, prairie-like character, that one could drive a vehicle, if he were so disposed, for many miles in any direction through the pine forests and on the open plateaus without the necessity of road building of any kind.

But when the summit is reached there is a change—a sudden and decided one. The western slope is broken, rugged and precipitous to a degree. The many streams that find their way to the Pacific Ocean, in contradistinction to the few and unimportant ones that flow to the east, have cut deep canyons in the range, and their precipitous walls and brawling torrents add attractiveness and grandeur to the scene, but of necessity making travel a perilous and dilatory process, although one full of interest and excitement.

An idea can be gathered of the nature of the Sierra Madre from the fact that in all the long years since the conquest but one wagon road has ever been built across the range from the interior to the Pacific coast, and that was the one constructed by Cortez from Guadalajara to San Blas, in the present State of Nayarit, formerly the Territory of Tepic, where he established a shipbuilding plant and fashioned vessels for the navigation of the Gulf of California and other waters. Traces of the old paved road may yet be seen here and there by the side of the modern one, which follows closely the survey of the Conquistadores.

Owing to its comparative inaccessibility, that portion of Mexico known as the "West Coast"—meaning the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit (Tepic), and that portion of Jalisco lying between the Sierra Madre and the ocean, is very much of a tierra incognita to the people of other portions of the Republic. Few of the coast people ever find their way across the range into the interior, and few from the interior visit the coast, so that the two divisions of the country are practically strangers to each other. As a result some very vague and erroneous ideas prevail, especially with regard to the climate of the West Coast region. The writer learned this most vividly when he determined to journey across the range from the interior—Culiacan, the capital of Sinaloa, being his first objective. To his inquiries from persons whom he supposed familiar with the country proposed to be traversed, he received in reply an amount of misinformation, not intentional in any way, but most remarkable when all things were considered. Before I had been three days on the journey I found so many facts at complete variance from the statements made to me that I was forced to revise my every idea regarding the country and to govern myself accordingly.

When the manager of one of the large commercial enterprises of Northern Mexico asked me one day in November whether I would like to make a muleback trip of a couple of months' duration in his behalf through the mountain region of Western Durango and Eastern Sinaloa, solely for purposes of observation, I did not immediately acquiesce. The fact that the locality referred to was not so many years ago the worst bandit infested portion of Mexico, and that even within a year or two there had been some bloody encounters between rurales (mounted police) and the gentry of the highway in those mountain fastnesses, did not commend that particular region to me as one desirable for a pleasure excursion. To be sure, under the iron hand and decided policy of "Don Porfirio," the major portion of the old time bandits long since occupied peaceful graves, such as survived being for most part either efficient officers of the law or staid and respected citizens. Nevertheless the unenviable reputation of Western Durango still adheres to it and will for many years continue to do so. However, since in far off Topia, that ancient mining town in the very heart of these mountains, resided a trio of sturdy little grandchildren, and their parents, whom I had not seen for two long years, and as the proposed journey would give me an opportunity for a much desired visit, I at length concluded to postpone other business engagements and undertake the journey.

The months of November, December and January are not exactly the season that one with great regard for personal comfort would select as a desirable time for a journey on muleback through the Sierra Madre range, much of the time at an altitude of 8,000 to 10,000 feet. I need not tell any Californian that while those months afford some of the most delightful weather in the valleys and along the coast of the Golden State, conditions are altogether different on the summit of the Sierra Nevada and Coast ranges. So in Mexico. In three hours' time one can pass from the tropics to a region of frost and (at times) snow, and the traveler must be prepared for any sort of weather incident to the tropical, temperate or semi-frigid zone.

Experience gained in the mountains and on the deserts of California proved valuable in the selection of an outfit for the journey. Mules and mozo or guide were to be obtained at Tepehuanes, the terminus of the Internacional Mexicano railway line about 220 kilometers northwest of Durango, but supplies and camping necessaries must be carried from Torreon. Readers may be interested in knowing what my outfit, as finally reduced to actual necessaries, comprised. Knowing full well the sort of temperature that might be expected in the mountains, I did not stint myself in the matter of bedding. Four heavy "Durango" blankets were taken. These have no superior in the world for closeness of texture, warmth, and practically waterproof characteristics. I used one for two days in succession wrapped around me during a rainstorm, and it did not get wet through. They are withal inexpensive, costing from $10 to $12 Mex. each. Foolishly taking the advice of some acquaintances who assumed to "know the country" thoroughly, and who assured me that "it never rained in the winter months," I did not provide myself with any sort of rubber or waterproof clothing—something which I had cause to regret sincerely before the journey was over. A thin cotton mattress, folding army cot and cotton pillow completed the sleeping outfit. Two sheets of heavy canvas were so provided with eyelets and light ropes that they could be made into a very comfortable tent or used as covering in addition to the blankets when the weather was exceptionally cold. They also served to protect the two large packages containing the entire outfit and carried by a single mule.

For provisions, there were, of course, the ever essential bacon, coffee, tea, sugar, with several cartons each of crackers and zwieback, canned cheese, canned brown bread, a considerable quantity of canned pork and beans (enough to make me, long before they were consumed, resolve to eschew that dainty "viand" forever and a day), and a supply of dehydrated fruit and vegetables—subsequently discarded and exchanged for more readily prepared food. I expected to live largely "off the country," and only to use the food that was carried for emergencies. Whenever possible I stopped at night at ranches or in villages and seldom had any difficulty in obtaining abundance of the usual food of the country—tortillas and frijoles, with fresh eggs occasionally thrown in, and in many cases most excellent cheese, that made in the Sierra and on the western slope being of particularly good quality and inexpensive.

A few necessary utensils completed the outfit, the whole supply of food and dishes packing readily into one of the ubiquitous Standard Oil cases, made to contain two five-gallon cans. Several changes of underclothing, small supplies of simple medicines, an overcoat, and an extra hunting jacket of duck and corduroy completed the outfit, which all told did not exceed 100 kilos or a little over 200 pounds in weight, the regulation "carga" for a mountain pack mule being about 300 pounds.

For arms (it is very essential that a traveler should be noticeably armed in the region to which I was going, "not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of good faith"—and readiness to shoot on occasion), I had a 30-30 Winchester carbine, 20-inch barrel, for saddle use, which I gave to the mozo to carry—thereby making him considerably prouder than the proverbial dog with a tin tail. At my belt I carried a 41-caliber army Colt, and hanging to the horn of my saddle was a machete with blade two inches wide and two feet long—this for use in my errand for cutting and testing trees and shrubs. On the pack mule I had a 12-gauge Winchester repeating shotgun, as I had been assured by "those who knew," that I would find an abundance of small game, including wild turkeys, in the remote and unsettled regions to which I was bound—an assurance so well founded that by the time I reached Topia I was tired of taking care of the shotgun and made a Christmas present of it to a young man who a good many years ago used to and still does for that matter, call me "Daddy."

Thus provided, one morning in the latter part of November, I took the train on the Internacional Mexicano line for Durango, 253 kilometers southwest of Torreon. This road passes through a picturesque though somewhat barren and desert like mountain and foothill region, finally coming out into broad valleys sprinkled with haciendas and with many thousands of acres in corn, which at this time was just being gathered, the Mexican farmer for some reason claiming that the grain is the better for being left on the stalk long after it has ripened.

Going into Durango, the road passes close to the famous Iron Mountain, long ago classed as one of the wonders of the world by Baron Von Humboldt, who traveled many hundred weary leagues on muleback for no other purpose than to examine it. Running between 70 and 80 or 90 per cent pure iron, with millions of tons of ore in sight and easily quarried out by inexpensive methods, one naturally supposes that its reduction to merchantable form should prove a very lucrative business. Not so. Several more or less ambitious attempts have been made to work the ore profitably, but all have been abandoned, the last one within the year before my visit. Distance from coal fields and high cost of fuel are given as the reasons for the repeated failure.

In many respects Durango is one of the most attractive cities of the Republic. Lying off the main traveled and favorite tourist routes, the city has not as yet been "spoiled" by becoming Americanized to any appreciable extent, and it is therefore a source of great pleasure to the somewhat infrequent visitor—infrequent by comparison with such haunts of the "turista" as Monterrey, Guadalajara, Mexico City, etc. The old churches and the splendid cathedral afford hours of enjoyment, the lovely Alameda and connecting gardens are without superior in the country, the great "ojo de agua" (eye of water—springs covering several acres) from which the city draws an inexhaustible supply of the purest water direct from the bowels of the earth, with no possible chance for contamination, is a wonder of itself, and one can pass several days most comfortably and enjoyably in this old and wealthy city.

The cathedral in the heart of the city is famed far and wide for the beauty of its architecture and the costliness and splendor of its appointments. There are also many other churches which are of great interest, including that of Los Remedios, which occupies a commanding site in the outskirts of the city on the summit of a rocky and precipitous hill. Up the rugged trail, which is the only means of access, may be seen frequent parties of penitents making their way on their knees from the level at the foot to the ancient building on the summit.

In this old structure the caretaker points out the various objects of interest, and with great veneration takes one into a side room or chapel and relates the history of a painting of the Saviour that hangs on the wall. Once upon a time, so the story goes, a band of wild Tepehuan Indians attacked the church, murdered all the occupants and then set fire to the building. When the people ventured back to the sacred edifice after the departure of the savages they found that everything inflammable had been consumed saving and excepting the painting of the Saviour, which still hung in its accustomed place with no change save that the sacred figure was now jet black instead of having the colors applied by the artist. And so the picture remains to this day, though the raid of the savages took place a couple of hundred years ago or so, and it is naturally an object of great veneration.

With an elevation of about six thousand feet, Durango enjoys a climate that affords an agreeable change from the lower levels, and the city is much frequented in the summer months on this account. Its magnificent Alameda and accompanying gardens have few equals in the Republic, and the traveler can pass several very satisfactory days in strolling and driving around the city.

A very interesting place is the great public market, where is displayed a collection of all things eatable, wearable, drinkable and usable of the most interesting, varied and wonderful character. One especial object of my attention was the wild game offered in profusion and at prices much less than the traditional song. I purchased some canvas-back ducks, all dressed and ready for the cook, for the trifle of seven cents each! Knowing that shotgun cartridges cost at least ten cents apiece, I was at a loss to understand how such choice game could be offered at such low prices. Inquiry developed a most interesting method of hunting pursued by the Indians. They are seldom able to procure weapons or ammunition, so have recourse to a most primitive plan. A headpiece is made of a large hollow gourd, which is painted and decorated with feathers so as to pass muster among the wild fowl when not too closely inspected. Apertures are left for breathing and seeing, and with such a contrivance on his head, the Indian goes quietly into the shallow ponds affected by ducks for feeding, and with only the artificial bird above the surface, he proceeds cautiously with his body under the water until the ducks he wishes to take are within reach. Selecting a victim, he approaches closely, reaches up, grasps the doomed bird's legs and drags it down quickly under the water, where its neck is twisted and it is fastened to his belt. He repeats this operation until he has secured a sufficient number, then leaves the water as quietly as he entered it, goes home, has his women folks prepare the game for sale, and takes it to market himself. Considering the number of ducks he is able to capture in this inexpensive fashion the price of a few cents each gives him a very fair return for his toil—in a country where fifty cents a day was until recently considered as good wages for the hardest sort of work.

There being no provision in most private residences in this country for cooking any sort of food in an oven, and as the writer is just unfashionable enough not to enjoy his duck either "high" or raw, he delivered his purchase to a friend at whose home he was visiting, and the native cook was instructed to prepare the birds for supper. They were cooked in an earthern receptacle, as are most foods in this country, being simmered over a slow charcoal fire for several hours in conjunction with some vegetable additions of a savory character, and when served—well, they were a new experience in duck or any other kind of preparation, and formed one of the most delicious and satisfying meals that I had ever eaten. No one who has not eaten game prepared in this manner can have any idea of its appetizing character.

But this was to be a business and not a pleasure trip, so the morning of the 24th of November saw me taking the mixed tri-weekly train that is run over the Tepehuanes branch, as the line from Durango to Tepehuanes is called. I had found it expedient to go first to Santiago Papasquiaro (literal translation, according to local foreign authority—St. James Likes Potatoes), where I was to be met by the agent of the owners of a million acre tract of timber in the mountains to the west, a visit to which was one of the objects of my trip.

Like all the settlements in this region this place was in the past subject to raids by savage Indians, and one is shown the spot where three devoted priests gave up their lives to these raiders. Away too from the towns the older haciendas are found to have been constructed with watch towers as a defense against raiders, while the constantly recurring mounds of loose rock by the side of the trail with wooden and sometimes stone crosses are a mute evidence of the dangers of existence here in the past. These mounds of pebbles and broken rock are also, so I was informed, testimony of the number and the piety of the friends of the person whose untimely decease is thus commemorated, since each stone represents the passing of a friend and the murmuring of a prayer—a very pretty and a very affectionate custom.

At Santiago Papasquiaro I met the people to whom I had been accredited for this preliminary stage of my journey, and after plans had been thoroughly discussed it was agreed that we should start for the mountains next morning at 6.30 o'clock. I had been long enough in Mexico to know what this meant, but for the moment former experience was forgotten. Could breakfast be had at such an unearthly not to say inhuman hour? Eight to ten o'clock was the usual time for the morning meal, and I doubted if the hotel people would care to be disturbed so early in the day as would be necessary for a 6.30 start. The hotel proprietor was interviewed and asked if one could have breakfast as early as 6 o'clock, since departure was to be taken at 6.30 sharp. By all means it should be ready. It should be ready at any hour the Señor desired—at 5 or at 4 or any time. At the same time there was a suggestion of a smile when it was insisted that the start was to be made at 6.30, the meaning of which became apparent later. But promptly at 5.30 came a tap at my door, at 6 o'clock I sat down to a good breakfast, and at 6.30 I was in the portal of the hotel, all ready to mount and away, what time the rest of the cavalcade should appear.

To be brief, and not to go into the detailed history of the exasperatingly weary hours that followed, it was just half-past ten o'clock when I at last climbed up on the hurricane deck of the mule that had been assigned to me and we clattered down the main street of the little pueblo. It was quite an imposing party too—five pack animals, two arrieros (mule drivers) one guide, a cook, a muchacho or boy of all work, a Mayor-Domo and myself, with several led animals to take the place of those that might become weary during the journey. Of course I should have known better than to have entertained for a moment the idea that we were really to start at 6.30. Up in Cuatro Cienegas in the State of Coahuila had I not once engaged a coachman over night to be ready at the hotel door at 7 a. m., and had it not been 11 o'clock when he at last appeared? Had I not once engaged another coachman to put me in a certain town at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and had not that coachman sworn by all the 365-plus saints on the calendar that I should assuredly reach the place at 3.30, and had not the town clock struck nine just as we pulled into the plaza?

But the bright sunshine, the beautiful scenery, the novel sights, the very exhilaration of the crisp November air, soon dissipated every feeling of annoyance. What difference does a few hours more or less make, anyhow? And so we strung out along the narrow trail and headed for the ragged tree fringed line of the mountains, half a day's ride to the westward.

It was an old, old trail that we were following, worn deep in the rocky soil and even in the solid rock itself. An old Indian trail for countless ages, connecting the ancient pueblos of the valley of the Santa Catarina river with those of the hills on the western side of the mountains, the Conquistadores naturally followed it when they invaded this region and "civilized" the aborigines by the gentle method of putting them to the sword or roasting them at the stake. At first it lies through valleys covered with corn fields, but soon winds among the foothills and at last begins a steep and rugged ascent to the first line of the Sierra. Here I have my first introduction to the far famed mountain trails of Mexico, and very glad I was when the summit was reached and about an hour's travel brought us to a pretty little sheltered meadow where the Mayor-Domo announced that camp would be made for the night.

Mrs. Huldah Harrold Bain

The camp was astir before daybreak, indeed the voice of the loquacious guide Julio could be heard at intervals throughout the night, there being good reason to believe that he passed some of the weary and chilly hours in conversation with himself, since no answering voice could be heard in the intervals of his phenomenal flow of words. But though all hands (and the cook) were up and doing at daybreak, and though all appeared to busy themselves, it was 10 o'clock before the final "Listo" (ready) was heard, and we mounted our saddle animals and struck southward along the crest of the mountains. We soon came to the trail to San Dimas and other mining camps far to the west, and I was entertained with many anecdotes of the doings of Colonel "Dan" Burns and other well known Californians in this region. If the old time political leader has any enemies among the natives, or foreigners either, in Mexico, I failed to find any indication of it. All spoke of him in the highest terms, and I was told repeatedly that "dead broke" Americans always received a helping hand at San Dimas.

Telling the Public The Truth About Mexico

A California Woman Lecturing In the Northwest

NEWSPAPERS in Minnesota and other Northwestern States report great interest taken in the lectures delivered at many points upon the Mexican situation by Mrs. Huldah Harrold Bain, of California. She has delivered several addresses at Minneapolis and St. Paul before clubs and public meetings and has been the means of disabusing the minds of a great many people of the false conceptions which they had entertained regarding the situation in the neighboring Republic.

Mrs. Bain has property interests in Mexico, and during the Presidential campaign of last year was prominent in a California organization known as "The Mexican Property-Owners' Non-Intervention League." This organization included a large number of extensive owners of mining and agricultural property in Mexico who had refused to be misled by the misrepresentations regarding that country and had consistently advocated and fought for the right of the Mexican people to work out their own salvation—the same right that Americans have claimed for themselves at all times since the days of the Revolution of 1776.

During the campaign of 1917 Mrs. Bain addressed many audiences in California and did much in the same direction in which she is now working. The newspaper reports of the meetings addressed by her in the Northwest all refer in most complimentary terms to her speeches. She has kept herself thoroughly in touch with the Mexican situation, and as a result has been able to answer many questions and solve many difficulties which have arisen in the minds of people who are not posted with regard to the facts. The work she is doing in this direction is entirely a labor of love on her part, being purely voluntary and is carried out in connection with other activities of a public character.

WITH THE MEXICAN POETS

English Versions by Alice Stone Blackwell

AVES

Por Luis G. Urbina

¡Ninez! qué hondo recuerdo arrancas!
Era un alero mi corazón,
poblado siempre de aves blancas
cuando en mi cielo nacía el sol.
Exuberancias, vida, firmeza,
todo lo trajo la juventud;
ay! pero huyeron de su belleza
las blancas aves de la pureza
como espantadas de tanta luz!

¡Y fué más tarda, de aromas suaves,
árbol umbroso mi corazón,
donde cantaban azules aves
cuando en mi cielo subía el sol.
El sol se puso; vino la obscura
y eterna noche de mi dolor,
y se perdieron en la espesura
las armonías de mi ventura,
aves azules de la ilusión!

¡Sol de mi cielo, ya no me alegras!
Es templo en ruinas mi corazón,
lúgubre nido de aves negras
entre la sombra de mi dolor.
Un misterioso rayo de luna,
pálido y débil hilo de luz,
esta tiniebla solo importuna:
¡Qué no se apague! . . . . es mi fortuna,
es un recuerdo de juventud.

¡Oh tiempo! Dejo las puertas francas;
veloz penetra, que si es verdad
que todo arruinas, que todo arrancas,
cual las azules, como las blancas,
las aves negras te llevarás.

BIRDS

From the Spanish of the Mexican poet Luis G. Urbina
(born 1858)

Childhood, how deep the memories you stir!
My heart was then like eaves with white birds filled,
When in my sky the sun was newly born,
And with its tender beams the shadows thrilled.
Youth brought me strength and wild exuberance,
Firmness, and life, and fire, and joy, and might;
But the white birds of innocence, ah me!
Retreating from its aspect fair to see,
Fled, as if terrified by so much light.

Later my heart, with fragrant odors filled,
Was like a shadowy, broad-branching tree,
Where, as the sun rose higher in my sky,
Sweet birds of azure used to sing to me.
The sun went down, and then came on the night,
My long, dark night of sorrow and despair.
In its thick blackness they were lost to me,
The melodies that filled my heart with glee,
Illusion's birds of azure, bright and fair!

Sun of my sky, you gladden me no more!
My heart is now a church in ruins cold—
A mournful nest of birds with plumage black,
Which the deep shadows of my grief enfold.
One mystic moonbeam's faint, pale thread of light
Alone illumes the darkness with its ray.
Let not its light be quenched! It is to me
The only joy of my sad destiny,
A memory of youth now past away.

O Time! I leave the doors all standing wide.
Swiftly come in! If it indeed be true
That all things you destroy and sweep away,
Bear hence with you these dark-hued birds, I pray,
As you bore hence the white birds and the blue!

Version by Alice Stone Blackwell·

COPO DE NIEVE

Por Salvador Diaz Miron

Para endulzar un poco tus desvíos
Fijas en mi tu angelical mirada,
Y hundes tus dedos pálidos y fríos
En mi obscura melena alborotada.

¡Pero en vano, mujer! ¡No me consuelas!
¡Estamos separados por un mundo!
¿Por qué, si eres la nieve, no me hielas?
¿Por qué, si soy el fuego, no te fundo?

Tu mano espiritual y transparente,
Cuando acaricia mi cabeza esclava,
Es el copo glacial sobre el ardiente
Volcán cubierto de ceniza y lava!

SNOW-FLAKE

By Salvador Diaz Miron (born 1853)

To soothe my pain because thou canst not love me,
Gazing upon me with an angel's air,
Thou dost immerse thy fingers, cool and pallid,
In the dark mane of my tempestuous hair.

'Tis vain, O woman! Thou dost not console me.
We are a world apart, in naught the same.
If thou art snow, then why dost thou not freeze me?
Why do I melt thee not, if I am flame?

Thine hand, so spiritual and transparent,
When it caresses my submissive head,
Is but the snow-cap crowning the volcano,
Whose burning lava-depths beneath it spread!

ONDAS MUERTAS

Por Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera

En la sombra debajo de tierra
donde nunca llegó la mirada,
se deslizan en curso infinito
silenciosas corrientes de agua.
Las primeras, al fin, sorprendidas,
por el hierro que rocas taladra,
en inmenso penacho de espumas
hervorosas y límpidas saltan.
Mas las otras, en densa tiniebla,
retorciéndose siempre resbalan,
sin hallar la salida que buscan,
á perpetuo correr condenadas.

Á la mar se encaminan los ríos,
y en su espejo movible de plata,
van copiando los astros del cielo
ó los pálidos tintes del alba:
ellos tienen cendales de flores,
en su seno las ninfas se bañan,
fecundizan los fértiles valles,
y sus ondas son de agua que canta.

En la fuente de mármoles níveos,
juguetona y traviesa es el agua,
como niña que en regio palacio
sus collares de perlas desgrana;
ya cual flecha bruñida se eleva,
ya en abierto abanico se alza,
de diamantes salpica las hojas
ó se duerme cantando en voz baja.

En el mar soberano las olas
los peñascos abruptos asaltan:
al moverse, la tierra conmueven
y en tumulto los cielos escalan.
Allí es vida y es fuerza invencible,
allí es reina colérica el agua,
como igual con los cielos combate
y con dioses y monstruos batalla.

¡Cuán distinta la negra corriente
á perpetua prisión condenada,
la que vive debajo de tierra
do ni yertos cadáveres bajan!
La que nunca la luz ha sentido,
la que nunca solloza ni canta,
esa muda que nadie conoce,
esa ciega que tienen esclava!

Como ella, de nadie sabidas,
como ella, de sombras cercadas,
sois vosotras también, las obscuras
silenciosas corrientes de mi alma.
¿Quién jamás conoció vuestro curso?
¡Nadie á veros benévolo baja!
Y muy hondo, muy hondo se extienden
vuestras olas cautivas que callan!
Y si paso os abrieran, saldríais,
como chorro bullente de agua,
que en columna rabiosa de espuma
sobre pinos y cedros se alza!
Pero nunca jamás, prisioneras,
sentiréis de la luz la mirada:
seguid siempre rodando en la sombra,
silenciosas corrientes del alma!

DEAD WAVES

From the Spanish of the Mexican poet Manuel Gutiérrez Nájera (born 1859, died 1895)

In the deep darkness underneath the ground,
That never has been reached by mortal sight,
There silent currents of black water glide
In an unending course amid the night.
Some of them, by the shining steel surprised
That pierces through the rocks to their dark home,
Limpid and boiling to the light gush forth
In a vast plume of white and silvery foam.

The others in deep darkness evermore
Glide silently upon their winding way,
Doomed to a course unending under ground,
Failing to find an outlet to the day.

The noble rivers to the ocean flow
Past field and forest, meadow-bank and lawn
Reflecting in their silvery, changeful glass
The stars of heaven, the pale tints of dawn.
Veils of fair, fragrant blossoms make them glad,
Nymphs bathe in their clear current with delight;
They fertilize the rich and fruitful vales;
Their waves are singing water, free and bright.

In the white marble fountain, lo! the stream
Is mischievous and playful, sporting there
Like a young girl who, in a palace hall,
Scatters the pearls that form her necklace fair.
Now like a shining arrow it shoots up,
Now like a fan it opens in its flow;
It splashes glittering diamonds on the leaves,
Or sinks to slumber, singing soft and low.

The waves that in the mighty ocean swell
Assail the craggy rocks, unsurging high;
Their raging fury shakes the solid earth,
And rises up in tumult to the sky.
Those waves are life and power invincible;
The water is a queen with wrath on fire,
And against heaven like a rival fights,
And wages war with gods and monsters dire.

How different is the sable current sad,
Doomed to imprisonment which knows no end,
Living below the earth in sunless depths,
Down deeper even than the dead descend!
That stream has never known what light may be;
It neither sings nor sobs, that sunless wave;
The subterranean stream is dumb, unknown;
It goes upon its way, a mute, blind slave.

Like such a stream, to all the world unknown—
Like such a stream, whose prisoned waters roll
Surrounded by thick darkness—such are you,
O dark and silent currents of my soul!
Who e'er hath known the course your waters take?
No kindly friend goes down where shadows sleep
To look upon you in the dark—and yet
Your captive waves reach deep, oh, very deep!

Should you be given an outlet to the day,
You would gush upward from your sunless home
As higher than the cedars and the pines
The water leaps, a column white with foam.
But no—you ne'er will feel the gaze of light;
Still through the night your rayless waves must roll.
Go on, forever gliding in the dark,
O deep and silent currents of my soul!

Version by Alice Stone Blackwell.

CREPUSCULO

Por Joaquin A. Pagaza, Obispo de Veracruz, Mexico

Lento desciende el sol y se reclina
En nubes de ámbar, rosa y escarlata;
Y resuélvese en lluvia de oro y plata
De los montes lejanos la neblina;

Entre nimbos la estrella vespertina
Brilla y treme; en el lago se retrata
El nublado que grácil se dilata
Donde rompe la bóveda azulina;

El horizonte aclárase, y remeda
Voraz incendio, tinte de amaranto
El cielo cobra, el llano, la arboleda,

Y junto al nido el postrimero canto
Entona embebecida el ave leda
Del sol poniente en el divino encanto.

TWILIGHT

By Joaquín A. Pagaza, Bishop of Veracruz, Mexico.

Slowly the sun descends at fall of night,
And rests on clouds of amber, rose and red;
The mist upon the distant mountains shed
Turns to a rain of gold and silver light.

The evening star shines tremulous and bright
Through wreaths of vapor, and the clouds o'erhead
Are mirrored in the lake, where soft they spread,
And break the blue of heaven's azure height.

Bright grows the whole horizon in the west
Like a devouring fire; a golden hue
Spreads o'er the sky, the trees, the plains that shine.
The bird is singing near its hidden nest
Its latest song, amid the falling dew,
Enraptured by the sunset's charm divine.

Version by Alice Stone Blackwell.

LATE NEWS NOTES

Patents have recently been granted to Mexican inventors for the mixture of rubber that has been used with the newly produced article from the guayule shrub; for an improvement in weaving; for improvements in concentration tables for milling ores; for the recovery of metals held in a state of vaporic oxidation; for an attachment which increases the capacity of the Mauser rifle to twice the present cartridge facilities; for improved methods of drying fruit and vegetables.

The company owning the electric street car system of Mexico City and its suburbs has established a Committee of Justice, before which all persons having complaints against employees of the lines are invited to appear and present their charges. Several hundred such cases have already arisen and the findings of the committee are enforced by the company. There are over 3000 employees of the various lines of the system.

A possible suspension of the manufactories of mineral waters and "soft drinks" is noted by the press, owing to the difficulty of obtaining carbonic acid from the United States. The consumption of such beverages is very large and is constantly increasing in all portions of the Republic.

The American Smelting and Refining Company is reopening its various plants in Mexico. The latest to begin operations was that at Chihuahua, where some five hundred workingmen are now employed, which will be increased to over a thousand in a short time.

The Congress of the State of Puebla has under consideration a proposition for the establishment of rural schools in every portion of that commonwealth, in order that no child may be without the means of acquiring a rudimentary education at least.

On the 18th of April was held in Mexico City the eighty-fifth anniversary of the Geographical and Statistical Society of Mexico. The Society proposes to publish at an early date a complete record of its labors since its first year, 1833.

The Tampico Tribune notes the fact that Mexican gold was worth sixty dollars for 100 pesos at the time of publication with a heavy demand and indications of a higher premium. The par rate is $50 American for 100 pesos Mexican.

Commencing with May 1st, the charges for sending telegrams over the National lines were increased 25 per cent. Even with this increase, the rates are very low by comparison with those that prevail in other countries.

The equipment for the gymnasium and other appliances of the new Y. M. C. A. institution at Tampico has keen received and work is being pushed on the building, which will be completed and opened for use in a short time.

Great interest has been aroused in Mexico City by a series of concerts given by little Celia Treviño, the seven-year old violinist, who created a sensation in various American cities by her skill as a musician.

For the first twenty days of April the custom house collections at the port of Vera Cruz amounted to nearly $600,000 national gold, and it was expected that the total for the month would be very nearly one million.

A special commission has been sent to the border charged with the duty of carefully examining all animals brought into the Republic, for the purpose of preventing the introduction of dangerous contagious diseases.

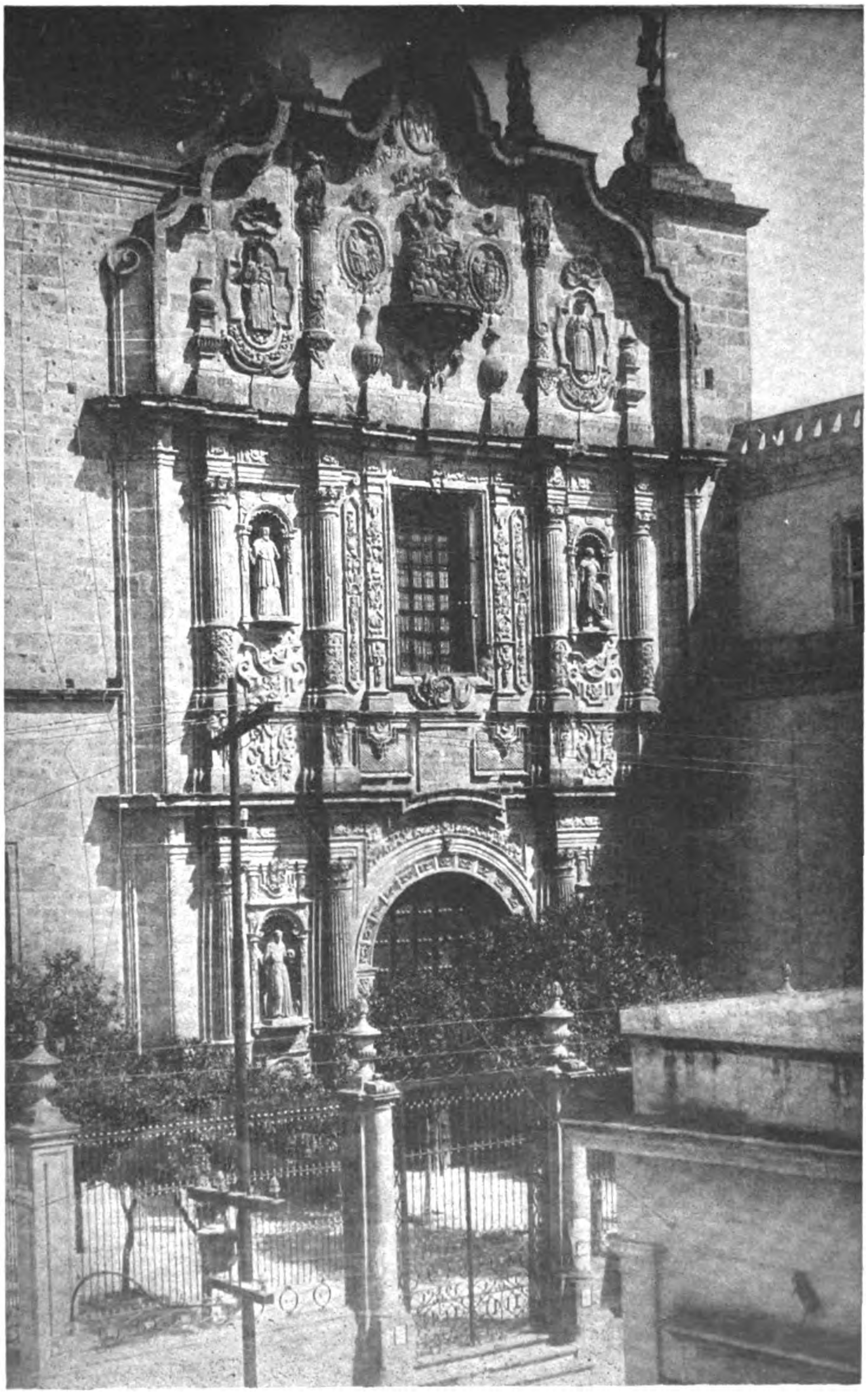
Señor Guillermo Seguin has been appointed consul for Mexico at San Antonio, Texas, which city has a larger proportion of his fellow-countrymen resident therein than any other in the United States. He has been instructed to leave nothing undone to advance international commerce and amity between the two countries. Mr. Seguin has filled important consular posts in various other portions of the United States with uniform success.

A new steamer line has been established directly from New Orleans to Tampico, the vessels going thence to Vera Cruz, Puerto Mexico and Frontera, to the south, and then returning to Tampico for final clearance to the American port. Vessels will leave New Orleans every ten days and it is expected great good will result from this new source of communication and transportation of freight and passengers.

Applications have been received by the Secretary of Fomento for permission to explore and utilize large areas in the States of Yucatan and Campeche, the period being limited to one year for such operations.

The plan of study in the National Veterinary School is to be completely changed. Careful study has been made of the methods followed in other countries and the most advanced ones will be adopted.

Regular passenger service is being maintained on the line between Tampico and San Luis Potosi. The trains make the trip between those two points in an average of twelve hours.



Entrance to the Church of San Felipe, Guadalajara

News From the Oil Fields

Statistics Showing the Annual Production—Names of Companies Whose Stocks Are Marketed

THE Secretary of Industry and Commerce has published statistics showing the production of petroleum for the year 1917. The total output was 8,264,266 metric tons of 2200 pounds, or in the neighborhood of 60,000,000 barrels,the proportion being from seven to eight barrels to the ton, according to the density of the product.

A total of 127 new wells were bored in the same period, of which forty-three are producing, with a potential daily yield of more than 235,000 barrels. The actual yield is of course limited by the lack of shipping facilities, many of the vessels hitherto in the trade having been taken over by the Allies and devoted to other purposes incidental to the war. Within the past three months permission has been granted for sinking twenty-three new wells in the Tampico district and ten in the Tuxpan region.

The exportation of petroleum to Central American points has largely increased, and active measures are being taken to provide west coast points with the fluid, it being greatly needed there for lack of a local supply.

These facts are regarded as ample proof of the unfounded character of the pessimistic statements regarding the nationalization of the petroleum measures under the new Constitution. All the foreign companies engaged in the business are extending their operations and appear thoroughly satisfied with the condition of affairs in this as well as other respects.

Petroleum Valuations and Taxation for the Months of May and June

The Treasury Department has issued the following rates of valuation upon which the petroleum tax of ten per cent shall be collected during the months of May and June. New rates are established every two months, but no radical changes in values are ever made. The valuations and their equivalent in American gold per barrel are given herewith:

Combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91, valuation $10.50 Mexican gold per ton, or $5.25 American gold. Total tax 52½ cents American gold per ton, or about 7½ cents per barrel.

Crude petroleum of a density of 0.91, valuation $13.50 Mexican gold, or $6.75 American gold per barrel. Total tax, 67½ cents American gold, or about 9½ cents per barrel.

Petroleum of a greater density than 0.97, $5.50 Mexican gold per ton, or $2.75 American gold. Total tax 27½ cents American gold, or a fraction under four cents per barrel.

Gas oil—valuation $10.50 Mexican gold per ton, or $5.25 American gold. Total tax, 52½ cents American gold, or about 7½ cents per barrel.

Owing to the increased value of the Mexican peso due to the rise in the price of silver, the present petroleum export tax when converted into American money is as follows: On ordinary fuel oil, 7.2 cents per barrel; light crude oil, 12 cents per barrel; heavy crude oil, 5.4 cents per barrel. On refined gasoline, at the rate of valuation of 12½ cents Mex. per liter on which the tax is 6 per cent, 1.7 cents American gold per gallon; crude gasoline, valuation 11¾ centavos per liter, 1.6 cents American money per gallon.

Kerosene, crude or refined, 12 cents Mexican gold per gallon or 6 cents American gold, with a tax of six-tenths of one per cent per gallon.

With crude oil selling in the market at from $1 to $3 and more per barrel, the tax of 4 to 9½ cents per barrel is surely very far from being onerous. And when to that is added the tax of ten cents per acre per annum on oil lands, it seems difficult for a fair minded person, or one familiar with oil taxation elsewhere to find any basis for the charge so frequently made that Mexico's oil taxation is confiscatory. Certainly the large operators do not find it so, as they are all extending their works and developing new territory.

Great Activity in the Tampico Petroleum Fields

One of the leading operators in the Tampico petroleum field informs the Mexico City press that the activity in that region becomes greater daily. Nearly every one of the operating companies is in full swing. Enormous quantities of oil are daily transmitted through the pipe lines and pumping stations to the storage reservoirs in the city of Tampico. The extent of operation can be judged from the fact that one of the most prominent of the companies paid for the last month the large amount of $300,000 in exportation duties.

Practically the entire petroleum region is under the control of the Government forces, and several thousands of workingmen are regularly employed at good wages.

Petroleum Companies Whose Stocks Are Handled in Mexico City

Following is a list of petroleum companies whose stocks are quoted in the reports of the transactions of the Stock Exchange in Mexico City. It is worthy of study by those who may contemplate investing in such matters:

Abastécedora
Aguila Nacional
Almanza
Alianza de Porforadores
Alamo de Panuco
Argentina
Bonanza
Caimán
Centauro
Campos petroliferos
Cantabros Panuco
Consolidada
Costas del Golfo
Covadonga
Cuauhtemoc
Dos Huastecas
Esfuerzo Nacional
Esperanza
Esperanza (Tot. Pag.)
Eureka
Equidad
Oro Negro
Florida de Alamo
Franco
Giaralda
Hispano Mexicana
Inglesa y Anexas
Internacional
LaFe
La Union, pagadora
Laluvia de Oro
Manantial, El
Margenes de Panuco (Pags)
Margenes de Panuco (Libs)
Meridional
Mexican Oil
Mexico y Espana
Nacional, La
Naco, Oaxaqueña
Naco, sindicalizadas
Oriental, La
Orillas del Panuco
Oro Mexicano
Riberas Tuxpam
Panuco Mahuaves
Perforadores
Pozos Petroleros
Pan-Americana
Panuco Tamesi
Panuco Tuxpam
Papaloapam
Poblana Progreso
Regiones Petroliferas (Tot. Pag.)
Reyes
Sabales de Pecero
Topila
Tanjuco y Tamiun
Territorial Petroli
Transatlantica
Triunfo
Tampiqueña
Tuxpam Ozuluama
La Universal
Valles
Victoria Vergel

Oil Drillers in the Tepetate District Resume Operations

A number of oil well workmen in the Tepetate district, a portion of the Tampico oil fields, recently left and some of them returned to the United States, where they gave out lurid stories of trouble and interference.

According to *The Tampico Tribune* of May 4th, operations have been resumed to a large extent and the men are returning to their posts. *The Tribune* adds:

"As an episode of importance to the Mexican fields, the runout could hardly be said to figure."

Development Notes

Active drilling is going on in the Panuco field, according to *The Tampico Tribune*. The East Coast Company's No. 201 well is down 1698 feet. The Mexican Guld's Isleta well is down 1758 feet. The New England Company's Cruz well is down 1685 feet, and is making about fifty feet weekly in a very hard formation. The Transcontinental's Barberena No. 2 well is down 1725 feet, and their No. 3 well is down 1120 feet in lime and shell. These are only a few of the wells now being sunk in various portions of the field.

General Agustin Galindo, commanding the forces operating in the petroleum region about Tampico, reports that he has matters well in hand and that only fugitive raids are made by the followers of Pelaez. All the important centers are held by the Government forces and normal conditions prevail. The economic situation is good, as there is abundance of work for all who desire it and in this respect the petroleum regions is more favorably situated than many other portions of the Republic.

Another new oil well has just been brought in in the Alamo district near Panuco, which at a depth of 2115 feet yields about ten thousand barrels daily. The first indication of oil was encountered at 1860 feet. This is only one of many wells being drilled by foreign concerns, and is regarded as proof of the belief of the owners in the stability of conditions and satisfaction with the petroleum laws.

Permission has been granted by the Secretary of Commerce and Industry to one of the extensive petroleum shipping concerns to erect three large steel tanks at Puerto Lobos for the storage of oil, the roofs of which are to be of wood, rendered impermeable to the gases. The difficulty of obtaining sufficient steel is the reason for this change in construction.

From Tampico comes information that it is reported the Aguila Oil Company (the Lord Cowdray properties) is planning to materially increase the size and capacity of its refining plant, and will install additional coke stills and other facilities. Under the laws now in operation it is much more advantageous to refine the oil before shipment.

Crops, Food and Land

News From All Portions of the Republic Showing Progress in These Vitally Important Matters

UPWARD of five hundred carloads of fresh tomatoes have been shipped from the West Coast of Mexico to the United States during the season which is just closing. Most of them have been marketed in Los Angeles. Such shipments are justly regarded as an index of the stability of the conditions that obtain in that section, which includes the States of Sinaloa and Sonora. Canteloupes and other products are produced there as well as tomatoes, attaining maturity in March and April, and sometimes earlier.

The Congress of the State of Mexico has adopted a law declaring of public use all lands whose owners do not cultivate them. The local authorities of each municipality are given power to allot such lands to those desirous of utilizing them for crop production, with due regard to the preservation of the trees, etc., thereon. No person is to be granted more than seventy-five acres for his personal use. The title of the owner is not affected and the cultivator must not be molested.

The coming crop of garbanzos (chick peas) in the vicinity of Huatabampo, State of Sonora, is estimated at fully 115,000 sacks. Besides this the plants after being threshed afford a large amount of valuable forage for animals. The harvest will be in July. From other portions of Sonora and Sinaloa come reports of abundant yields of this and other crops as well, such as corn, beans, etc.

The city officials of Merida, capital of the State of Yucatan, have established the prices at which French rolls (the only form of bread known in that region) may be retailed at the equivalent of 3.68 cents American gold per pound where sold directly to a customer and at 4.60 cents where delivered at residences. These are the maximum rates. Infringement of the regulation will be punished.

A new fruit containing a large percentage of oil has been discovered in the region of Torreon, and is known by the name of "chichopoxtle." Experiments show that twenty-five per cent of its contents consists of oil of great value in industrial pursuits requiring a lubricant of high quality. It is proposed to introduce the cultivation of this fruit upon a large scale.

Steps are being taken by an extensive fruit house in St. Louis to secure the shipment from Mexico to the United States of quantities of the excellent oranges produced in the Republic. For various reasons there is a demand for more of this fruit than is obtainable from the usual sources of supply and as a consequence inquiry has been directed toward Mexico.

The subsistence Commission, which has done such good work in securing food for the alleviation of the shortage caused by the partial failure of crops last year, will remain in operation until the coming crops are harvested and all need for their services is ended. Present indications are for one of the largest harvests the Republic has ever known.

A contract has been completed by which the riparian owners of lands bordering upon Lake Chapala, in the State of Jalisco, will provide the necessary funds by which the work of draining the borders of that body of water can be carried out under Governmental supervision. Many thousands of acres of land of great fertility will be reclaimed by this work.

The allotment of lands to cultivators, as well as the restoration of "ejidos" or community lands, to their rightful owners, continues to be carried out in all portions of the Republic, and there is scarcely an issue of any of the city newspapers that does not contain accounts of such matters in various sections.

Permission has been asked of the Secretary of Fomento for the establishment of stations at five separate points in the Territory of Lower California, for the breeding of cattle of superior quality in order to improve that stock region. A careful study is being made of the proposition.

The Government of the State of Colima, has provided a large amount of corn for the use of the poorer classes and is selling it to them at the equivalent of two and one-third cents per pound or about $1.30 per bushel, that being a very low rate and much less than has been charged by the dealers in the past.

The Chamber of Commerce of Leon, State of Guanajuato, has issued notice that the potato crop that will be harvested in that locality during the months of May and June will approximate 13,200,000 pounds, or some six thousand six hundred tons, which will in great part alleviate the scarcity of this article.

Secretary Pastor Rouaix of the Department of Fomento has completed a survey of the Laguna region, in the States of Coahuila and Durango, with an especial view to the utilization of the waters of the Nazas river so that the greatest possible amount of land may be brought under cultivation.

There has been discovered in the State of Colima, a plant of the yucca family, which produces a variety of cotton for which there is a great demand for industrial purposes. A quantity of seeds have been obtained and the plant will be cultivated upon a large scale in other sections.

The State Government of Tabasco has issued instructions for the cultivation of all the unused lands either by the owners thereof or by applicants who desire to make such use. In this manner it is expected to avoid any possibility of crop shortage in the future.

More than three hunderd thousand bushels of corn have been accumulated at the port of San Blas, on the Pacific coast, from the interior, awaiting shipment to other portions of the Republic by water, there being no rail connection as yet with that point.

The coffee growers of Mexico are anticipating a material increase in the price of their crops, owing to the demand created by the war. The only difficulty consists in the limited transportation facilities caused by the demands of the conflict.

The authorities of the State of Colima, have opened places for the sale of corn to consumers at lower rates than those demanded by dealers. The price has been fixed at the equivalent of 2-1/3 cents per pound American gold, or about $1.30 per bushel.

The Norwegian steamer *Herald* recently arrived at Vera Cruz from New Orleans with a cargo of three thousand tons of assorted American products, and after discharging took on a full cargo of Mexican goods and returned to its port of departure.

The pupils of the public schools of the Federal District, which includes the city of Mexico, are cultivating garden plots on vacant lands and a series of premiums is offered to those making the best showing in this respect.

Twenty tractors were recently purchased in the United States by a single company which is putting under cultivation a large tract of land in the State of Vera Cruz, mostly for the production of cereals of various kinds.

Twelve carloads of sugar purchased for Government account recently passed through Mexico City enroute to the State of Chihuahua, where it will be devoted to the alleviation of the scarcity of that product.

A land tax varying from $3.75 to $6.50 per thousand valuation has been levied upon rural properties in the State of Jalisco, which must be paid promptly under penalty of a ten per cent increase.

The Vera Cruz Milling Company has recently made contracts in South America for the purchase of forty thousand tons of wheat, which will be converted into flour at the company's plants in Mexico.

The Mexican Government has accepted the invitation to participate in the agricultural congress to be held in October at Kansas City, Mo., and will appoint delegates to attend.

The Department of Health of the City of Mexico, has inaugurated active measures for the punishment of all who sell adulterated milk, and vigorous prosecution is assured.

A cargo of sugar of various grades has just landed at Manzanillo, from Sinaloa, whence it will be shipped to those portions of the Republic where a scarcity exists.

It is proposed to establish a National School of Agricultural Mechanics for the purpose of imparting practical as well as theoretical instruction.

Owing to the large increase in the population of Mexico City since the Revolution it has been found necessary to add to the marketing facilities, and it is proposed to construct ten more buildings for this purpose. Upward of a million dollars will be expended in this direction. It is expected that these new markets will to a large extent solve the problem of the ten thousand traveling peddlers of fruit, etc., who now throng many of the principal streets.

The National Labor Congress in Saltillo was in session for the first twelve days of the present month and was largely attended. Delegates were present from all portions of the Republic and many matters of interest to the working people as well as to the nation at large were discussed and arranged.

Garbanzos or Chick Peas

Facts Regarding One of the Principal Products of the Mexican West Coast Region

OCCASIONAL reference has been made by THE REVIEW from time to time to the crop of "garbanzos," one of the leading food products of the West Coast of Mexico, and this periodical has received several requests for detailed information. Some time since the United States Department of Agriculture issued a Bulletin upon this interesting crop. Following is an extract:

Gram, Idaho Pea, or Chick-Pea (*Cicer arietinum*), has been in cultivation in eastern countries longer than any other leguminous crop. Its native country is unknown, but it is supposed to have originated in Asia Minor. It was one of the plants of the Greeks at the time of Homer, and occupied a prominent place among the food plants of the lower classes during the time of the Roman Empire.

From Europe it was introduced in comparatively recent times into India, where it is estimated that there are now over 5,000,000 acres devoted to its cultivation either alone or as a by-crop with wheat. Next to the cereals, gram forms the largest part of the food used in India and in portions of northern Africa, Spain, and other countries bordering on the Mediterranean.

Description

This plant is a branching annual, with many upright stems from the same root. The leaves resemble those of the vetch, having seven pairs of small leaflets. These are oblong, soft-hairy all over, one-half inch long or less, and sharply toothed on the margins. The flowers are borne singly in the axils of the leaves, on short stalks about one-half inch long. The pods are bladdery, inflated, from one-half to three-fourths of an inch long, and finely pubescent with glandular hairs. Each pod contains one, or very rarely two, large seeds, which are wrinkled and bear a fanciful resemblance to a ram's horn, whence the Latin name "arietinum." The seeds are a little larger than those of the common garden pea, to which they are quite similar.

Use As An Adulterant

This crop is cultivated in Mexico, where it is known by the Spanish name "Garbanzo." It is there used to some extent as food, but is considered inferior to corn. Gram has been introduced into this country at various times since 1864 as a substitute for coffee, but it should be remembered that there is no such thing as a coffee *substitute*. Various peas and beans, chickory, or even rye flour or bread crumbs, may be roasted and prepared in the same manner as coffee, but the beverage has none of the stimulating qualities of that drink and only resembles it in color and to some extent in taste. It can be used as an adulterant of coffee. The Idaho pea was cultivated at the Colorado Experiment Station in 1895 and 1896. Professor Cooke states that it "has demonstrated its ability to make a large growth with plenty of water and a fair growth with a very limited supply. It belongs to the pea family and is grown in rows, 30 inches apart, and the plants 6 to 12 inches apart in the rows. Its growth indicates that it can be raised for about 1 cent per pound."

Seed Per Acre—General Climatic Conditions Necessary

About 30 to 50 pounds of seed used per acre, depending upon whether it is sown in drills or broadcast. In India the largest acreage is in the Northwest Provinces, where the soils are similar to those west of the one hundredth meridian, and the climate is much like that of New Mexico and Arizona. All authorities agree that it is better suited to arid and semi-arid regions than to humid ones, the crop apparently requiring a great many sunny days during its season of growth. Better results are secured in growing it with irrigation than without, although it makes a fair yield on comparatively dry soils. If continued experiments with this plant in the West prove that its average yield is as high as has been claimed, it will undoubtedly prove a valuable addition to the list of forage plants suitable to semi-arid regions.

Time to Sow Seed

There are a number of varieties, which differ from one another in the color of the seed and length of season required for maturity. The forms which have been cultivated in Spain, Mexico and the Northwest Provinces of India are liable to prove more adaptable to American conditions than those from subtropical India. The gram plant is very sensitive to cold. The seed should be sown not earlier than May 15, or at the higher altitudes about the 1st of June, and, if some of the short-season varieties are procured, there will be less danger of their being caught by early frosts. Gram is grown in India as a winter crop. The seed is sown there in October or November and the crop ripens in February, March, or April, according to the portion of the country in which it is grown. It is said to be adapted to almost any soil, from light sandy to heavy clays or loams, apparently preferring the latter. It might prove of some value in parts of the Southern States as a winter crop and soil cover, on lands which are unsuited to the vetches and the crimson clover. It requires only moderate amounts of moisture and is said to be injured by prolonged cloudy weather or abundant rains, which cause it to flower prematurely and thus materially affect the yield of seed.

As a Soil Renovator

Gram is one of the leguminous forage crops which has the power of absorbing gaseous nitrogen from the air, thus adding to the stores of nitrogen in the soil, and though the fact of nitrogen-absorption by leguminous plants has not been well understood until recent years, this has long been considered one of the best Indian crops for soil renovation and improvement. Watt states that over a large portion of India, gram is grown either to check weeds or as a green manure, and where this is the main object, only enough seed is saved to sow again the coming season.

For Feeding Purposes

Gram is a staple article of horse feed in India. The seed is also highly valued for fattening sheep and cattle. There is a considerable trade with England and other foreign countries where the peas are used for the same purposes. The total exports amounted in 1887 to over 15,000 tons. The average analyses of the seeds show that they contain about 20.5 per cent crude protein, 3.9 per cent fat, and 59.4 carbohydrates, having approximately the composition of the seeds of the field pea commonly grown in the Northern States. Digestion experiments have not been made with them, but their fattening qualities in use show them to be fully as valuable as the seeds of many of the other legumes.

Besides serving as a fattening ration for cattle and sheep the seeds and different parts of the plant find many uses among the natives of India. The green peas are eaten as a vegetable. The meal is used for porridge; and the parched peas are used either in the preparation of a beverage or in various confections and candies. The young plants are eaten as a salad and sometimes cooked like spinach.

Other Uses—Poisonous Qualities

The leaves of the gram are viscid with a secretion which contains oxalic, acetic, and malic acids, the first of these predominating. In India the secretion is collected by means of cloths spread over the plant at night and wrung out in the morning when wet with dew. The solution thus obtained is used in the preparation of cooling drinks and also finds sale as a vinegar. The forage is said to be actually poisonous to horses on account of the excess of oxalic acid in the leaves. Cattle eat it, but it often proves injurious to them, although to a less extent than to horses. This crop is not ordinarily grown as a forage crop, but for the seeds, and the seeds alone are used in India for feeding purposes

Production Per Acre

Gram has been grown experimentally at the grass garden in Washington, D. C., and seed has also been distributed to a limited number of farmers in various parts of the country. The reports concerning it were not very favorable except from some parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, and Montana. In the grass garden of the Department of Agriculture it did not grow higher than from 8 to 10 inches and the seed production was very moderate. The newspaper reports of this pea grown in the Rocky Mountain regions mention yields estimated at the rate of 90 bushels to the acre, but this is very unusual. The average crop in India is about 10 bushels to the acre and the highest yields do not exceed 25 bushels, the latter only when grown on the best soils under the most favorable conditions.

In common with other leguminous crops gram is dependent on the presence of certain

(*Concluded on page* 24)

Vast Areas Reclaimed

Millions of Acres Returned to the People That Had Been Illegally Granted to Monopolists

BY SECRETARY PASTOR ROUAIX, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOMENTO

SOME time ago the President of the Republic suggested that it might be advisable if I with other officials of this Department should make a journey to Lower California for the purpose of informing ourselves on the state of affairs and reporting on the land situation and the best methods to be employed toward the progress of this part of the country and the well-being of the people. The length of my stay there will depend on the time necessary for the careful consideration of the means of advancing agriculture and colonization. With this in view I shall give particular attention to the study of irrigation and the partition of the land.

The lack of progress in this section is undoubtedly rooted in the large concessions of lands, waters and natural products which until a year ago were in the hands of a few. Referring only to land, I will mention the four foreign enterprises which covered an area of ten million hectares (25,000,000 acres) without counting several islands included in the contract.

For about seventy years Lower California has been the object of much speculation, first on the part of Jecker and others, but especially during the Diaz régime. The influential element of this epoch, with the pretext of colonization, obtained enormous concessions for the demarcation and partitioning of the land contrary to the prevailing laws, which had the appearance if only in precept of attempting the division and thereby stimulating the increase of this population which is so much needed.

To have followed these laws would have brought good results to the nation, but unfortunately neither the Government nor the concessionaires attempted to comply with them. Scarcely were the concessions granted before speculation began with the selling and reselling of the grants, with no concern as to the terms of their obligations, not even taking the trouble to make the necessary surveys to verify the lines nor with a thought of promoting the colonization to which they were pledged by their contract.

As to the manner in which the lands were partitioned, the concession given to Louis Heller contained *five million, four hundred thousand hectares* (13,500,000 acres), or a territory equal in size to the State of Guerrero, and this concession was obtained for the sum of a little less than 10 cents a hectare (2 cents gold per acre), after discounting one-third for the expenses of the survey.

Bulle's concession of seven hundred thousand hectares (1,750,000 acres), to the south of that of Heller, corresponds in size to the State of Aguascalientes. Bordering on the west of this concession began that of Flores Hale, embracing more than half the western coast of the Peninsula and including Magdalena Bay, from parallel 29 to the south of the 23d degree to Cape San Lucas. This concession covered an area equal to twice the size of Aguascalientes, one million and a half hectares (3,750,000 acres).

Last, the concession of Pablo Macedo, comprising two million five hundred thousand hectares (6,250,000 acres), a territory a little larger than that of the State of Mexico, and embracing a good part of the Gulf coast beginning in the center of the Southern section.

The result was that in Lower California, with an area of fifteen and a half million hectares, the concessions of which I have spoken, including those in operation to-day, embrace a territory of ten and a half million hectares, more than seventy per cent, given to a favored few.

Such has been the condition of Lower California for many years, which theoretically formed a part of the national territory. Having now reclaimed so vast a country the duty of rehabilitating it by whatever means at hand is imposed on the nation.

There yet remains in existence the concession granted to Guillermo Andrade, about the area of the State of Mexico, but in importance to the country greater than all the other concessions granted by the Dictator. This concession lies between the international line of the United States and the Colorado River to the northeast of the Peninsula. It forms the continuation of the Imperial Valley of the United States, famous for its production of cotton of excellent quality.

Forgetting the most rudimentary principles followed by nations for their international guarantees, former Governors permitted numerous commercial combinations in this section, violating with danger to the national sovereignty the laws that govern when treating of the subrogation of property within a foreign zone.

During this concession Andrade organized several foreign companies, successors to those which have developed the Imperial Valley and which have utilized our territory for the passage of their irrigation canals that take the water from the Colorado River across the international line for the irrigation of American lands. Naturally the companies have chosen to profit by them in the Imperial Valley and the Andrade concession only serves to hinder the development of a region that the companies have no interest in improving, since it is for their interest to leave it undeveloped.

In the concession for profiting by the waters the Secretary is assisted by the right to take the half of them. Thus it is that now he will attempt to exercise this right in order that the irrigation of the lands colonized by Mexicans may begin immediately.

As to the other States the Department under me has restored another five million hectares (12,500,000 acres) that were granted to other favorites, who like those others mentioned used their concessions for speculation only. The areas returned to the Government are:

Chiapas	1,700,000	hectares
Vera Cruz and Oaxaca	866,150	"
Yucatan	689,543	"
Tabasco and Campeche	675,627	"
Nayarit	465,365	"
Chihuahua	300,000	"
Sonora	116,875	"

With the ten million of the Peninsula this makes a total of fifteen million hectares.

The lands thus restored to the Government have been utilized for our poor farming class by means of renting contracts, until the study of our future agrarian law, based on Article 27, which will be presented to Congress, will be finished. We will then decide on the methods of development of said lands, in compliance with this law and for the benefit of the working class of the Republic.

ONLY A GREASER

(*Concluded from page* 12)

two elder men lying stark and stiff, their faces to the sky; in front of them was Manuel, face down in a pool of blood. A raven croaked gloatingly from a dry pine, and while some buzzards flapped and wheeled in short circles overhead, others perched on rocks and trees craned their necks downward expectantly, like aldermen at a civic feast, or a committee of undertakers, considering how to best celebrate with fitting pomp and ceremony the burial of a prominent citizen, while from the surrounding ridges came the yapping chorus of the keen-scented coyotes, self-invited participants in the obsequies of a brave and faithful soul, who was "only a Greaser."

The National Health Board under the direction of Dr. J. M. Rodriguez, is contemplating steps to check the flood of Chinese immigration that is coming into the Republic. Large numbers have recently gathered at the Guatemala border with the desire to cross into Mexico, but it has been found that many are afflicted with contagious diseases and for this reason it is believed that restrictive measures should be enacted.

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Mexican Women as They Are

Some Popular Misconceptions Regarding Them—What They Really Are in Home and in Relation to Education

BY IRENE KRANZTHOR SCHUTZ

(Concluded from last month).

AS has been remarked before, many Mexicans themselves are of opinion that it would be beneficial for education in their country to have more foreign teachers; linguistic instruction has hitherto occupied a secondary place in Mexico, though it has not been neglected, and among feminine organizations, the great Mexican confederation especially has worked for wider and more efficient instruction in home economies, industry and commerce, not only for the good of women, but also for the good of their country as a whole. The progressive women of Mexico are glad to see the good accomplished by a few good foreign schools that are established in their country, and welcome the foreign instruction which is adapted to the needs of Mexico.

Among national schools exclusively for girls are "La Corregidora" in the City of Mexico, the Industrial School in Chihuahua, and similar schools in Monterrey, Saltillo and Guadalajara and other cities of considerable population. Other schools again are open to both sexes, and education, based on the right principles, is as beneficial for Mexican as well as for American youth. A School of Commerce was incorporated into the National University several months ago, and plans have been formed for another School of Commerce, probably independent of the university, and to which, it is supposed, women as well as men will be admitted. We do not here mention separately the public schools where the study course is usually mapped out by a congress of education. Not long ago public instruction received an added impetus through the efforts of Señora Virginia R. De Vallado to introduce special classes of domestic science in the normal and industrial schools for women. Now her methods are the latest, as she traveled both in the United States and in Europe to gain information on domestic science.

Further, a fairly good number of schools for special subjects are in existence, to most of which both sexes are admitted, one of these being the school for librarians and archivists; the latter is well attended, and among the graduates attaining highest honors were several young Mexican women. Not long ago an academy combining tuition in commercial subjects and vocal art was organized in Mexico by two enterprising women teachers, going to show that love for art is strong enough in most Mexicans to enable them to infuse some of it even into things almost purely commercial in nature. Very important in the music life of Mexico is the National Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art in Mexico City. In connection with art we cannot fail to mention the general administration of fine arts to which belong artists and literary people of both sexes. Another prominent society for the dissemination of culture is the "Ateneo Hispanico" of Mexico, where members often hold meetings to discuss the program for literary and artistic work.

The kindergarten is of prime importance today, and Mexican women accomplish much good there. One of the best schools of this kind is the Pesstalozzi Kindergarten in Mexico City, where two hundred children attend daily. Not less important than the schools are the women clubs in the educational life of every country, whether they take the form of social clubs of diversion or literary and musical clubs, charity clubs, or clubs with the object in view to better womankind in a general way wherever and whenever possible. A great number of these clubs exist in Mexico and almost all are combined with patriotic activities. Among these organizations one of the most noteworthy is the Mexican Red Cross, and in our days of widespread warfare the Mexican Red Cross must surely awake sympathy in every nation, whether hostile or friendly. Aiding in the work of these organizations and in the work of furthering the education are many women who number themselves among the intimates of Mrs. Carranza, the President's wife, and who, with her, are at the head of these associations.

Great geniuses among women whether in the past or present history of a country, have always been a part of the education of womanhood, and to omit individual mention of some names that have personified feminine genius in Mexico would be giving but an incomplete account of the education of Mexican womanhood, but we shall mention only a few names at present. The first great literary woman in Mexico was Sor. Juana Inez de la Cruz, a poetess, born in the year 1651 in the humble town of San Miguel Nepantla, in the district of Amecameca. This poetess, who was surnamed the Tenth Muse, entered a convent to pursue her studies away from the turmoil of the world. Nevertheless, Sor. Juana's works are very human, replete with intellectuality and alive with what some of her admirers called "a feminine virility." This great writer was also the first Mexican woman to enter the struggle for the emancipation of her sex, for Sor. Juana was a liberal as well as a profound thinker.

A pleasing figure in Mexican history is that of Dona Margarita, who, in her gentle and quiet way, was as great a patriot as her illustrious husband, Benito Juarez. In 1866, when Dona Margarita visited New York and Washington, the President of the United States, Mr. Johnson, gave a reception in her honor, and this reception was the first one of his administration. Many deeds of heroism and sacrifice are recorded of both humble and prominent but equally patriotic women who lived in the eventful times of Benito Juarez and Dona Margarita. Dramatic art was well represented even during the reign of Emperor Maximillian in the person of Concha Mendez. During a performance at the Emperor's private court theater at Chapultepec, the actress made such a deep impression on Empress Charlotte that the latter presented her with a beautiful bracelet on which were engraved the Queen's initials. In after years, when Maximillian was no more and Charlotte had succumbed to insanity, Concha Mendez, daughter of the land of the Incas and the Moctezumas, though she rejoiced in the new freedom of her country, she continued to cherish an affection and gratitude for the memory of the unhappy foreign princess who had given her the bracelet as a mark of admiration and esteem.

Among modern Mexican women of the greatest is Hermilia Galindo, the champion for women's rights and suffrage in her country, who is also literary, editing her own newspaper. Modern dramatic art numbers among its representatives many belonging to the best art. One of the greatest actresses and all-around geniuses is Virginia Fabregas, whose acting continues in as great favor as ever with the public. The Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art in Mexico City boasts of a good number of pupils who have gained fame as musicians, actors and singers. A graduate of the Conservatory is the exquisite singer, Amelia Gonzalez Caballero, who has won fame rapidly.

The efforts of the Mexican womanhood for greater freedom and higher education are meeting with approbation both in their own country and in foreign countries. Thus, while the women of Mexico work for the advancement of their sex they contribute at the same time their share towards the uplift of their country, joining hands with their sisters of other countries who also work for the same noble cause.

CONTRIBUTIONS REQUESTED

THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

SPANISH TRANSLATION BY TECHNICAL EXPERT

Competent American (Engineer) with foreign business experience offers limited service in translation. Among his authorized references is the editor of this journal, in care of which he may be addressed as "Don Jaime."

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CEMENTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

(Concluded from page 3)

It would be impossible to forget the picturesque view seen on that eventful day from the balcony of the Custom House. The cadets marched past in fine step, the white summer uniforms of some flashing out as a strong contrasting note to the darker dress uniforms of blue. At intervals rows of cadets filed past in double-quick time. The populace was massed in thick ranks around the spacious front of the Court House, their cheers mingling with the music on the plaza.

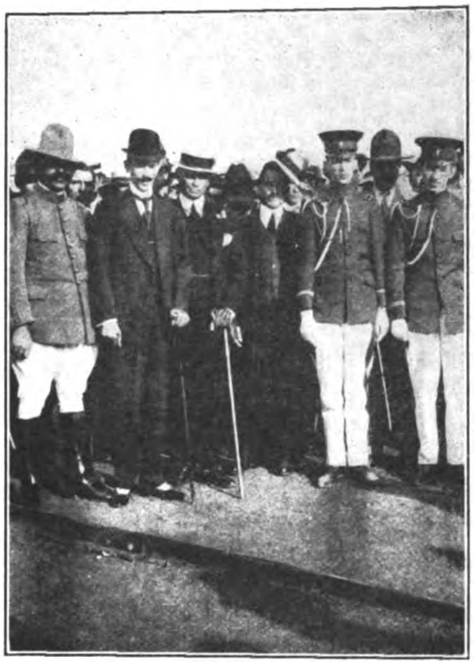
General Peraldi and Mrs. Hobby

The conference was followed by a luncheon at the National Casino of Piedras Negras. The banquet bespoke the good taste of the hosts, while the spirit of animation and cordiality that prevailed made everybody present feel at home. Many a merry joke passed around the table and the cadets' military band played beautifully. Among the musical selections several popular airs were rendered, airs now racy and gay, then again melancholy and sentimental—melodies that make an audience hum along in unison as they are played. A number of addresses were made both in Spanish and English. Governor Hobby said in his speech he felt happy because he was in the midst of friends. He observed that Texas and Coahuila were sister States and the best way to live in peace consisted in neighbors treating each other kindly and with the greatest sincerity of which hearts are capable.

Governor Mireles' address was very eloquent and its sincere tone of friendship did not fail to impress the assembled guests. Señor Teodoro Frezieres, Consul of Mexico for Eagle Pass, made an effective address in which he demonstrated his earnest wish to contribute his share towards furthering the cause of lasting friendship between Mexico and the United States, remarking that he also was ready to do all in his power to help Mexico in the onward path of progress. Colonel Frederick R. Day, Commanding Officer of Camp Eagle Pass, and Mr. F. L. Jordan, special agent of the War Trade Board in Eagle Pass, were present. During his speech Mr. Frezieres pointed them out as men who had distinguished themselves by their work in assisting to maintain and establish friendly relations between the United States and Mexico. Colonel Day's and Mr. Jordan's efforts on the border have been noteworthy. Mr. Jordan was on a special commission composed of several representative gentlemen from Eagle Pass to receive Governor Mireles upon his arrival at Piedras Negras, and also received at the bridge. Mr. W. P. Blocker, United States Consul in Piedras Negras, who had also been on the commission, did much to make the unusual occasion a thoroughly enjoyable one both for the Mexican and American guests. Besides the party that accompanied Governor Hobby from Austin, among whom were Adjutant General Jas. A. Harley and Mrs. Harley, Secretary of State Howard and Mrs. Howard, several well-known gentlemen of San Antonio and their wives also accompanied the Governor. Among the party from San Antonio were Judge Douglas, Mr. and Mrs. Winchester Kelso and Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Coleman. Mr. Coleman is connected with many of the most important interests of Texas and not long ago left for Washington to consult about some important matters. Judge Kelso is exceptionally conversant with Mexican subjects, and Judge Douglas delivered a stirring address in the Spanish language, of which he is a master.

According to ancient Mexican custom, wines and champagne were served at the banquet but partaken of sparingly. Governor Hobby raised aloft a glass of sparkling clear water—symbolic of the principle of prohibition for which he stands. Many vivas resounded, and while the notes of the national anthem could still be heard the guests left, and shortly afterwards Governor Hobby returned to Eagle Pass, Governor Mireles accompanying him to the boundary line on the bridge. Towards evening the Governors met there again, Señor Mireles accompanying Mr. Hobby over to the American territory, where they and their escorts passed through the sentineled streets of Eagle Pass followed by long lines of automobiles. After a brief rest, a reception was held at the Mesquit Club in Eagle Pass.

It has been very long indeed since such an interesting reunion was held there between American and Mexican dignitaries and their many friends. A large number of Mexican cadets and many officers were present, and General Peraldi's commanding figure was conspicuous among them. Dancing was indulged after the reception, and beautifully gowned ladies, both Mexican and American, flitted past with partners wearing the Mexican uniform or with dancers in the United States army uniform. Civilian dancers were also well represented, and being equally good dancers, they will never be forgotten by the ladies who danced with them that evening. A spirit of the greatest cordiality and animation reigned during the reception.



Governor Mireles and Friends

"What more could I say," Governor Mireles expressed during the evening to some friends, "than that we are happy to be here, appreciating the hospitality and enjoying the company of all our friends who have done so much to make our visit pleasant for us?" Governors Hobby and Mireles favored the happy assemblage with eloquent addresses. Mr. Mireles' speech gave proof of his pleasure at being a guest of Eagle Pass. "It is characteristic of the Latin nature," he remarked during the address, "to remember and cherish all the beautiful and good experienced as on this auspicious occasion." The Governor of Texas and his party were to leave that very night, and after the reception in Eagle Pass, Governor Mireles returned to Piedras Negras, accompanied to the boundary line by Governor Hobby. Electric arc lights of red, white and blue spanned the streets as the automobiles sped past them in the balmy dusk of a summer night, the military bands played while people cheered, and no doubt all hoped fervently that lasting good might come of the great event of May 15th.

Next day an enjoyable sequel followed the festivities in the form of a dance in the evening at the Casino Nacional in Piedras Negras. Friends from both sides of the Rio Grande had the opportunity of greeting each other once more before the departure of Señor and Señora Mireles and their party, who, assisted by their hosts, made everybody present feel that they were truly welcome. A home-like touch was given the successful social affair by the agreeable sight of Señora Mireles knitting. She had made wonderful progress in the art since the day before, when she took her first knitting lesson from Mrs. Hobby. Governor Mireles and party left next day early in the morning and the Governors' meeting became a pleasant memory, with the hope on the part of all to welcome them again some time in the future.

An Emphatic Denial From Lord Cowdray

No Truth in Reports of Confiscation of His Property

SOMETIME ago the statement was published widely in the press of the United States that the Mexican Government had confiscated the Tehuantepec Railroad properties of the Pearson or Lord Cowdray interests in Mexico, as also their electric light and power properties in Vera Cruz. This publication was brought to the personal attention of Lord Cowdray by Mexican Consul-General F. R. Villavicencio, of London, with the result that the following letter was written by the former gentleman:

S. Pearson & Son,
Limited.
47 Parliament Street,
Westminster S.W.,
15th April, 1918.

Reference LCO 8-33.

F. R. Villavicencio, *Esq.*,
277 Finsbury Pavement House, E.C. 2:

Dear Sir:

I thank you for your letter of the 11th inst., with inclosure.

I had not seen the *New York Evening Post* nor any reference to it as to "the confiscation of the Tehuantepec Railway" and "the seizing of the electric light and tramway system of the city of Vera Cruz."

Please contradict both statements.

The partnership lease of the Tehuantepec Railway, existing between the Government and my company, was cancelled by mutual agreement between the two parties; whilst the Vera Cruz Electric Light and Power and Traction (Ltd.) has not been deprived of its property, of which it is in full possession and is duly performing its daily services.

I inclose the *Diario Oficial* of 23d of January, which sets out the decree for the dissolution of the Tehuantepec partnership and which speaks for itself.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed by) Cowdray,
President.

GARBANZOS OR CHICK PEAS

(*Concluded from page* 20)

organisms in the soil for its ability to absorb nitrogen from the air and it is possible that the lack of success with this crop in the Eastern States has been due to the absence of the particular tubercle-forming bacteria which are parasitic upon this plant. To determine finally upon this point importations could be made of soil upon which this crop has been grown, or pure cultures could be secured of the organism itself and the soil or seed inoculated before planting, as has been so successfully done in the case of the hairy vetch at the Alabama Experiment Station. If this crop will yield even 25 bushels per acre during average seasons, it will prove a valuable addition to Western forage crops on account of the high feeding value of its seeds, but until fuller and more extended trials have been made we would advise Western farmers to be cautious of investing too much money or devoting too much land to the cultivation of the Idaho pea, chick-pea, or gram.

The Nogales (Arizona) *Oasis* calls attention to the fact that in prohibiting the exportation of gold and silver coin Mexico is merely imitating the example set by the United States.

The city authorities of Mexico are establishing public dormitories in various localities for the accommodation of the poor. An extensive one has been located in the old Belen prison, which has been converted from its former uses to various utilities, including an immense public bath house.

Work will be commenced this month upon the construction of an artificial roadstead at the port of Progreso, the most important shipping point in the State of Yucatan. Hitherto all deep water vessels have been obliged to anchor and handle their cargoes with lighters at a distance from the mainland. The improvements will obviate this and will greatly stimulate the commerce of the port.

Fernando Gonzales Roa
B. Carbajal y Rosas
Adam Leckie
Cable Address "Golecar"

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Mines, Oil Lands
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THE SPANISH-AMERICAN DIRECTORY AND BUYERS' GUIDE
IN THE UNITED STATES
In Spanish, Portuguese, English and French

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The public is invited to inspect the many interesting and novel articles.

LAZARO BASCH, *Manager.*

The Mexican Review

Vol. II WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY-AUGUST, 1918 No. 10-11

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

GEORGE F. WEEKS . . . Editor and Publisher
613 RIGGS BUILDING

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$1.00, Elsewhere $1.50

The Mexican News Bureau
Accurate News Service by Wire or Mail

Mexican Editors Visit The United States

THE recent visit of a party of prominent Mexican editors to the United States, and their extensive tour throughout the country, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, cannot but be productive of the greatest good. Not only were they afforded an opportunity to see the solidarity with which the entire country has entered heart and soul into the fight for Democracy, but they were afforded unexampled opportunities for learning the real attitude of the American people toward their next-door neighbor on the south. That attitude was fully and emphatically expressed by President Wilson in his statesmanlike speech to the party, and was endorsed by prominent men in all portions of the country. These editors returned to their country with their minds enlightened upon many points that had been obscured, and already the fruits of their observations are beginning to be seen. If a party of unprejudiced American editors should now be sent into Mexico, to see for themselves what conditions really are, rather than trusting solely to expressions based upon ignorance or direct antagonism, an equally good work would be accomplished. An exchange of such visits is one of the best possible antidotes to the virus of misrepresentation and misunderstanding which has permeated to such an extent throughout both countries.

Advanced Status of Labor in Mexico

ELSEWHERE in this issue of *The Review* will be found an interesting article by Ambassador Bonillas of Washington regarding the advanced status of labor in the country which he so ably represents. With justice he claims that the labor legislation of Mexico is the foremost in the world, and cites the provisions of the constitution and laws in support of his contention. His statements are worthy of the earnest consideration of all, especially those who are familiar with the conditions as to this matter which prevailed in Mexico prior to the Revolution.

Steady Production of Gold Coinage

THE national mint is working to its capacity in the coinage of gold and subsidiary currency. It is stated that the average daily output of gold is $250,000, and that this finds its way at once into circulation. For a year and a half Mexico has been doing something practically unheard of, at least in modern times. She has been conducting her entire financial business upon the sole basis of gold and silver currency. No paper has been used, entire dependence being placed upon specie. Naturally business has been hampered to some extent, as why should it not be, but that it should have been possible to operate in this manner for even a brief period is a wonderful evidence of the wealth of the country as well as of the enterprise and determination of its leaders.

Stimulating the Intensive Production of Corn

IN THIS issue *The Review* publishes an interesting article regarding the production of corn which is full of interest not only to corn growers themselves, but to the general public. The deep interest taken by the "Apostle of Corn," Mr. Zeferino Dominguez, and the wonderful results of the experiments conducted by him, are briefly described. The abundant crops produced by him—more abundant than has been regarded as possible—are proof of the accuracy of his theories, and the result of his experiments must prove of great benefit to the farmers of both countries, as well as of the world at large.

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Mexico City illustrations by courtesy of the Pan American Union.

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Some Facts About Llano Colony

WE ARE in receipt of the following letter from the Llano Colony, Leesville, La., which is advertising in this magazine:

"To make sure that there is no misunderstanding of our advertisement, we have thought best to make this supplementary statement.

"The declaration that the Llano Colony was esablished by 1,000 persons should not be interpreted to mean that there are 1,000 persons actually living in the colony. Many more than 1,000 are members and contributing in the form of regular payments for stock to the support of the colony, but not all of these have moved here yet. Some have not been able to dispose of their property outside and spend part of their time here and part of their time attending to outside interests. Others have not come, at all, but have joined and will move here as soon as they can arrange to.

"The number of these actually living in the colony at any one time has probably not exceeded four or five hundred. But as time goes on and the outside members are able to close up their business connections and other affairs outside, all of the members will eventually be able to locate here permanently.

"This statement is made to be perfectly fair with all who may read our advertisements. A misunderstanding of the number of actual residents of the colony would have no bearing on the success of the colony itself, but we do not want prospective members to misunderstand any detail.

"The development of agriculture, growth of bumper crops and serving of meals at unusually low prices have already attracted much attention and only a week ago a local federal official commended the excellent work the colony is accomplishing in these respects."

Mexican Laborers in the United States

OWING to the demand for laborers caused in large part by the war, as well as by the abundant harvests of all kinds, the American Government has modified the regulations concerning the introduction of working people from Mexico and holds out every encouragement to them. Elsewhere is given the text of the regulations governing this matter, and it should receive careful attention both in the United States and in Mexico, as there has been much misunderstanding in connection therewith. It will be seen that the interests of the laborers are carefully guarded, their health and other conditions guaranteed.

Corn Production in Mexico

An Expert Planter Who Is Inculcating New Ideas and Greatly Stimulating the Field

BY CAMERON RHODES

Group at Zeferino Dominguez's Hacienda in Puebla

FIGURE it out for yourself: When each kernel of corn is capable of producing one thousand kernels, and each of the thousand progeny is of the high virility and vitality to produce again a thousand kernels, and each of the kernels of such parentage will yield again a thousand to one, what stupendous gains in the solution of the food problem will be made for all the world?

"Milpa" is Mexican slang for corn because it is capable of producing a thousand kernels for every kernel planted. Some corn growers have achieved "Milpa"—and more!

In the dead level of average crop yields as stated in tables compiled from annual returns by the Department of Agriculture, the average rate of reproduction of corn kernels is very, very different, not more than twenty or twenty-five kernels or at most two hundred kernels for each kernel planted.

And yet the crops of "Milpa" have been achieved, a rate of increase which would yield food in abundance for all the hungering world.

In the reconstruction of Mexico's agriculture this knowledge is being put to use by the swarthy, handsome, farmer-scientist, the Mexican Government's "Instructor Procido del Maiz," whose achievement may bring about a new era of food production in his own country. Will the United States ignore the fact?

It is this discrepancy between corn growing as it averages in the United States in spite of scientific research, and the stupendous rate of increase of "Milpa," that has left the world impoverished and in fear of imminent famine, when the world war shall have destroyed the crops of Europe.

In Mexico the peones know that corn is capable of reproducing at the rate of the Aztec fables, hence "Milpa" is their name for maize. Recent discoveries in Yucatan have led to the assertion that Yucatan was the first home of the maize, not of the developed type of the corn belt, but the earliest descendant of Teosinti. In Mexico they know that "Milpa" is true because it has been proved true on thousands of acres by the "Burbank of Corn," Don Zeferino Dominguez, whose last crop of corn, cotton and wheat, before the Revolution overwhelmed his country, had a volume worth over one million dollars. It was the "Gospel of Milpa" which he was spreading throughout Mexico by lectures as the means for preventing Revolution, when Huerta came into power, and soon sent the "Corn King" into exile to the United States. Reconstruction of agriculture has begun in Mexico, and the Carranza government has sent for the man who has grown the thousands of acres, part of it with nine inches of rainfall only. Even on his "dry" farm his average crop was nearly three times the average per acre for the farms of the United States, with rainfall two, three and even four times as great.

It is likely that the world will have from Mexico not only the corn, but the system which is bringing a new era of development founded upon the confident knowledge that the limit of yield per acre is not thirty-four bushels, the average of Iowa, nor twice that, nor one hundred and fifty bushels per acre, but over two hundred bushels, where moisture is plentiful.

Food production, as the fifty-year record of average yield goes to show, was little changed by the methods employed by the Federal and State departments of agriculture to wake up the American farmer to the use of tested, selected and high-bred seed. Food Administrator Hoover may shake loose from orthodoxy and take steps to see if a kernel of seed corn in this country shall not be counted on to produce the fourth year a billion sons and daughters. There would be no lack of food if the rule of "Milpa" could be made the rule of American agriculture.

Contrast the result of one-thousand-to-one corn growing in the total yield to the twenty-to-one, or at best two-hundred-to-one, corn raising, which is general in the land which must be the bread basket of the world.

The contrast is that in three years one kernel of corn reproducing at the rate of "Milpa" will have one billion kernels to its credit. The American standard of reproduction after three years would have only eight thousand kernels to its credit, and even in the fourth and fifth years the progression would not be the equal of the one-thousand-to-one in the second year of "Milpa."

It can be done. It has been done. It needs to be done.

Perhaps the Mexican Corn King's method, which he reduced to moving-picture lectures, will be the inspiration of the million corn growers whose net results are disappointing.

As Commissioner of Agricultural Education, Señor Dominguez is beginning in Mexico a new era for that land. It has been hunger which has driven the Mexicans into revolutionary armies and outlaw bands. The agrarian plan of Dominguez comprehends the problem of land usefulness. For a people who are almost 80 per cent rural have been given almost no opportunity to acquire homes of their own to become the center of that domesticity for which the Mexicans, both peons and patricians alike, are noted.

The Dominguez pictures of his methods of seed testing, seed selection and seed breeding were exhibited to the chiefs of the bureaus in the United States Department of Agriculture, where the objection was made that the tillage methods were those of Mexico and not of the corn belt. The reply by the statistician of the Stock Yards Company, of Chicago, M. F. Horine, was that methods were details, that the important problem was to fire the spark which would vitalize the interest of American farmers in the general principle of better farming. He contended that once awakened by the visual evidence of the Dominguez pictures, produced in a dramatic and effective way, the farmer would have a new appetite for the wisdom furnished by the bulletins which the Agricultural Departments have been pouring into the laps of American farmers for years by the ton and tens of tons.

Dr. Taylor, chief of the Bureau of Plant Industry, wrote Mr. Horine a letter, in which he said:

"With reference to the Dominguez reels, illustrating corn production which myself and others recently had the pleasure of viewing, through your courtesy, it occurs to me that the first reel, which illustrates a very unique method of making germination tests of seed corn specially adapted to use by peon or similar labor unable to read or write, would be found very useful and interesting, especially if displayed in contrast with a film illustrating some standard method of testing germination adapted to use under our Corn Belt conditions.

"The Dominguez reel illustrates a method of effectively overcoming unusual difficulties in such a matter."

Voices of protest against the rule of thumb methods followed throughout the States in the effort to raise the crop averages have been growing louder in recent years, and the world's food shortage has brought the problem to the serious attention of thousands and millions of men and women who feel no restraint against questioning whether there has been enough freedom and open-mindedness to new ideas on the part of scientific men to whom the country looks for wisdom regarding problems of crop production.

One day a group of influential men, including President Joseph P. Griffin, of the Chicago Board of Trade, and Secretary Hughes, of the Chicago Live Stock Exchange (which is interested in corn because corn is the basis of live stock production), witnessed the picture in a private view in the rooms of Señor Dominguez at the Majestic Hotel. Recognition of the value and importance of using moving pictures to teach better farming methods, which was the immediate result of this occasion, took the form of a memorial to President Wilson. This memorial was sponsored by the Rotary Club, and signed by many prominent men and institutions, most all of Chicago, in which it was said:

"*Whereas,* there have been tendered to our country and likewise refused to enemy nations by a distinguished citizen of the Republic of Mexico, Señnor Zeferino Dominguez, a recognized high authority on the subject, methods and pictorial records of those methods of growing Indian corn by which the yield per acre in this and succeeding years can be increased many millions of bushels if copies of the pictorial record so tendered are quickly and widely distributed all over the United States for the information of those concerned in the growing of corn; and,

"*Whereas,* none but the agencies of the United States Government adequately can deal with the distribution of said pictorial records;

"*Therefore* do we, the undersigned, respectfully submit to you, with the hope that it may have your speedy and favorable consideration, records thereof so tendered, and our desire is that they be employed by the Government of the United States to graphically explain how the same land and same amount of labor can and will greatly increase the crops of corn in this and succeeding years generally throughout the country."

Zeferino Dominguez was born with no silver spoon in his mouth. His mother was widowed when he was but a lad, and it was necessary for him to earn a living. He entered a bank, and he was alert enough to make a little competence in a few years. It was due to a romance with a young woman who loved life in the country that young Dominguez decided to leave the city and return to the little estate where he had lived as a child. From that beginning, after years of persistent faith in methods, which all his neighbors spoke of with scorn until they were demonstrated to be successful, he was able to acquire farm after farm until he was overlord of 40,000 acres, of which a large part year after year was in crop with corn, always the wonderful crop.

Year after year he improved the stamina and vitality of the seed corn. And when bandits came in the Madero Revolution and burned his cotton and looted his barns, the loss which he felt the most was that of 900 bushels of seed corn, which was the product of fifteen years of devotion to improvement.

Two hundred and forty bushels to the acre from a sixty-acre field was the culminating record which Don Dominguez made. This was not the result of intensive fertilizing, but of improvement of seed, the concrete evidence of what can be done to increase the size of the ears and consequently the number of kernels upon each ear, and also the number of ears upon each stalk, by the right method.

Most farmers have learned but little about seed breeding, because its explanation sounds "scientific," but one reel of the moving picture shown to the Government experts at Washington displayed the facts of corn breeding pictorially in such graphic simplicity that no farmer with a conscience would again willingly let his seed patch go without detasseling to stimulate, as is nature's way, the female organs which were left, nor would he fear to remove the silk from the sire row to produce like result with regard to the male organs. The purpose in both cases was to offset the inbreeding necessary to fix desirable qualities more and more strongly in the plant.

Señor Dominguez is extraordinary in being a scientific man who has lived the life of a farmer, studying not only the theoretical, but superintending the practical work and results in his fields, year after year putting to the severest tests the theories which his reading and laboratory study evolved.

It was his own success in dealing with his laborers which inspired the Agrarian plan for which he was exiled by Huerta. But the Agrarian plan was nothing less than one to give the laborers on the land a home with proper garden and equipment. When the Revolutionists came to his estates and enthusiastically talked of loot if the laborers would join them, they were met with surprise; justice and contentment born of home and plenty safeguarded Dominguez from the loss of his men without whom he knew his farms would be valueless.

In his message to the American people Señor Dominguez places emphasis on the fact that the chief gain in adopting his method of agricultural development will be in the "back-to-the-land" movement.

The basis of value is food. The dollar fluctuates in purchasing power according to the conditions of plenty or paucity of food, the staple of life.

With but 5 per cent of increase possible, and that with hard labor, on the farm, and 8 per cent in prospect in the city, with light work, the farm-bred youth decides to take up urban pursuits, which include moreover many advantages and pleasures which have not been obtainable in the country.

"As a result of the tendency of your young men from the farms toward city life, manifested as it has been for many decades," he said, "the proportion of your people engaged in agriculture is but a small per cent, as against 80 per cent of the Mexicans, who are tilling the soil, with primitive implements, it is true, and for the most part in ignorance of scientific methods.

"Increase the percentage of profits in farming to a figure that will enable the farmer to improve his home and realize the comforts and conveniences which now he can obtain only in the city, and the trend of development will be in the direction of country homes and agricultural development, and the great economic, social and industrial problems will be in a fair way to solution.

"America raises but twenty-four bushels of corn to the acre. With a yield of even fifty, she could feed the world. And the nations of the world will look to her for many of their staples."

Señor Dominguez predicted the Mexican Revolution two years before it began, reading the signs of the times in the clouds of discontent on the political horizon which arose from the hungering homeless, illiterate peons. The contrast between the disposition of his own laborers and that of the suffering hordes from which the ranks of the Revolutionists were enlisted, had enabled this keen observer of human affairs, whose close relation to industrial development gave him such a point of vantage, to analyze the various aspects of social maladjustments which are expressed periodically in Mexico in political disturbances, riots and revolutions of various sorts. His aim was to improve agricultural development in Mexico to the standard of the United States, and in the improvement of living and working conditions for the people he saw the hope of his country. His broad sympathies, his wide vision and his sense of justice enabled him to frame a plan which was designed to adjust conditions. The cultivation of "Milpa," by the use of the product of the system of seed testing, seed selection and seed breeding developed by his years of research and experience, would thus prove to make, in his own words, "the best rounds of ammunition for the victories of peace and plenty."

With the example of Mexico in the throes of internal revolution due to the poverty of her people, the people of the United States may take warning of the inevitable effects of the causes that reduce large numbers to distress and want. In our great American centers of population we see the results of removing the people from the cultivation of the soil to the over-crowded industries of the cities.

"The evils of the slums, extending over an ever widening area, necessitate the operation of a vast machinery of relief organizations in all the great metropoles, at an expense which absorbs immense sums annually, on the one hand," Señor Dominguez has said, "while on the other the growth of the great food staples, upon which real wealth is founded, upon which depends in fact the ratio of values, is reduced to the point of famine. And this is the condition with which the people of the United States face the responsibilities which devolve upon them in the world war."

Timber in Mexico

Much Pine and Oak—Quantities of Valuable Hardwoods That Invite Exploitation on a Liberal Scale

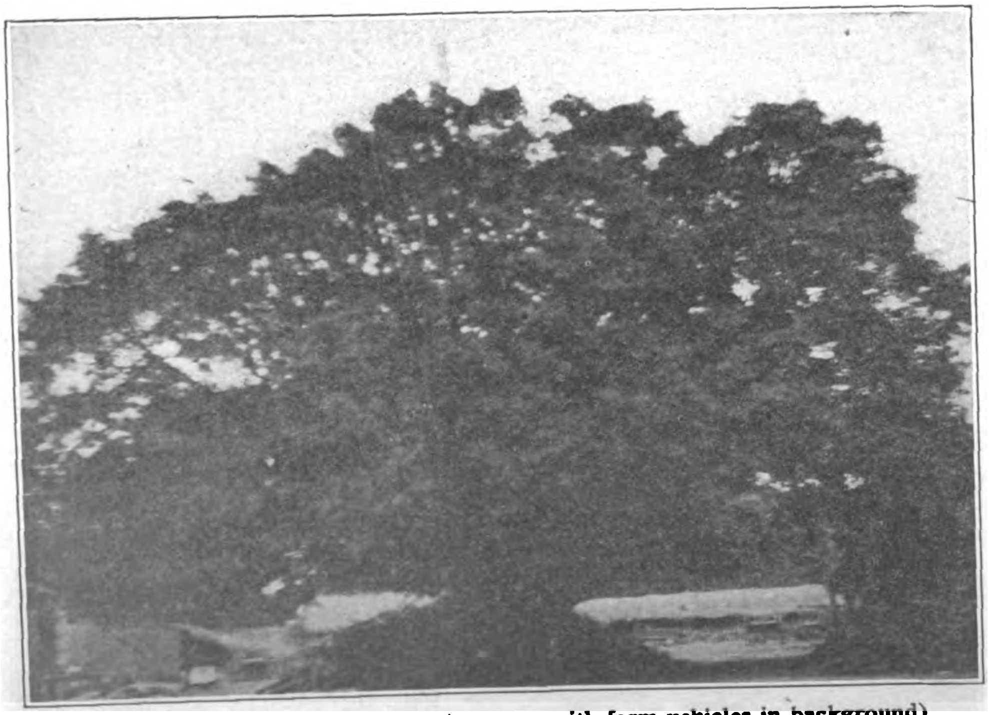
THERE are immense quantites of building timber and cabinet woods in Mexico, many species of which are as yet unknown in foreign markets, although they are classed among the most valuable and expensive.

An official list of the various woods in Mexico gives 200 varieties. Among the woods use as construction material the principal are the "Algarrobo" (*Himenea courbaril*), "Almandrillo" (*Pomus occidentalis*), "Ceiba" (*Eriodendon anfructuosum*), "Granadillo" (*Brya ebanus*), "Guanacastle" (*Lignumvitae*), "Guayacán" (*Guayacum verticale*), ironwood (*Robinia sp.*), "Mezquitillo" (*Cassia occidentalis*), "Ocote" yellow and white (*Pinus harborwegii* and *P. ayacahuite*), white oak (*Quercus jalapensis*), and several others.

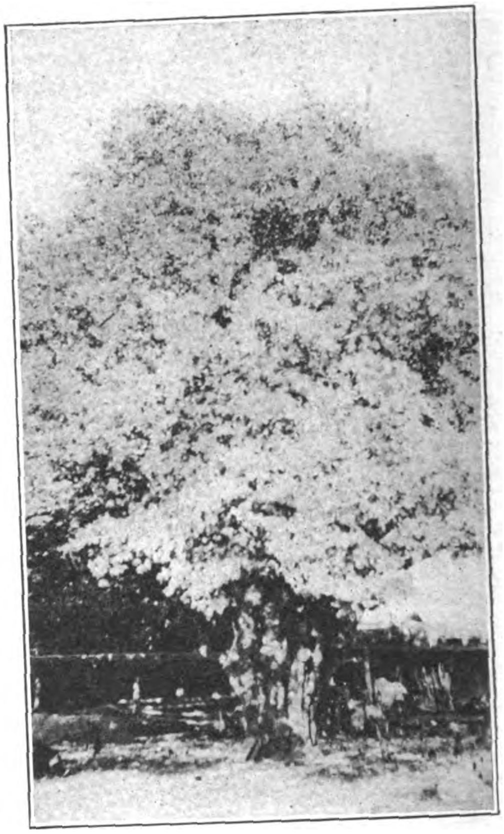
The following are among the principal cabinet woods in the country: Mahogany (*Swietenia mahogoni*), "Caobilla" (*Croton lucidum*), cedar (*Cedrella odorata*), three varieties, one white and two red; ebony (*Diospyros ebernum*), three varieties, one of them called green ebony (*Chloroxylon*); "Gateado" (*Swietenia sp.*), and rosewood (*Tecoma multiflora*).

The yearly production of mahogany amounts on an average to about $1,200,000 Mexican silver, Chiapas, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Campeche supplying the greatest quantity of this valuable wood. One-half of the mahogany consumed in the United States comes from Mexico. Cedar is found in all parts of the country, but the States of Chihuahua, Tabasco, and Veracruz contain the largest and the most desirable forests of this wood, cutting annually cedar logs to the value of more than $1,000,000. Ebony is produced in Tamaulipas, Guerrero, Hidalgo, and Yucatán. Puebla produces a greater quantity of aloe wood than any of the other Mexican States; Coahuila the most oak; Nuevo León the greatest quantity of walnut; the Territory of Lower California, ironwood, while the State of Jalisco is celebrated for its orange wood.

Certain quantities of pine are found in large quantities in the plateau district of Mexico. There are six species, namely: white, sugar and bastard white; two fir, white and red, and a small percentage of yellow. There are numerous large timber tracts in Mexico, the States of Durango and Sinaloa being most noteworthy. The difficulty heretofore in marketing lumber in Mexico has been lack of transportation. In one section of the State of Durango, investigation showed some 5,368,500,000 feet of commercial pine, and a tract in the northern part of the State containing 4,800,000 acres was estimated to have 10,000,000,000 feet of commercial pine ready for cutting. It is possible to buy much of the Durango timber land at a very low price, and returns from the same can be estimated on the value of the lumber, the value of the fire wood or charcoal, and the value of the land after the timber is cut, this latter being a variable quantity. Charcoal produced from these timber lands is a feature the ordinary lumberman thinks little about, yet it is a source of possible revenue, as the demand throughout the Mexican Republic for charcoal is almost unlimited. Besides the States mentioned, pine is also found in Chihuahua, Jalisco, Michoacan and Guerrero, the standing forests in these States comparing favorably with similar timber in the United States and Canada as regards quality, diameter, and extreme length of clear body.



Bebelama Tree of Immense Size (compare with farm vehicles in background)



"Palo Blanco" Tree in Full Bloom at Christmas

Vegetable Wool in Mexico

Considerable interest has been shown recently in the fiber that is classified in Mexico as "pochote," but is known as "Java kapok" in the United States. The designation "vegetable wool" (lana vegetal) also has been commonly applied to this product, which has been known and used by the natives of Mexico for many years, but without any special regard for its commercial value. Practically the same fiber is produced by two different species of plants, one of which is confined to the State of Tabasco, while the other may be found in large quantities in the States of Campeche, Coahuila, Colima, Chiapas, Guerrero, Morelos, Sonora, Jalisco, Michoacan, Oaxaca, Puebla, Sinaloa, Tamaulipas, Tabasco, Vera Cruz, Tepic, and Yucatan.

The plant grows wild here. It begins to bear two years after planting, yielding from 4 to 6 kilos of fiber annually. This fiber never has been exploited in Mexico to any considerable extent, though it is commonly employed to fill mattresses, pillows, etc. The seeds, which are similar to cotton seeds, are roasted and used as a food by the natives in the district where the plant flourishes. Lately, however, attention has been directed to the oil of the seed, which heretofore has been employed in Mexico solely for soap making. One ton of the seed will produce 65 gallons of oil, which compares favorably with cottonseed oil.

No statistics are available to show the annual production of "pochote" in this country, and the prices asked for the fiber vary all the way from 20 centavos (about 10 cents, United States currency) to 1 peso (about 50 cents United States currency) per kilo (2.2 pounds), according to the locality in which it is produced.

Misunderstandings About Mexico

Discussed by General Emilio Salinas, Mexican Consul General in the City of Los Angeles

LA PRENSA, a well-known Spanish-American newspaper published in the city of Los Angeles, recently gave to the public a very interesting interview with General Emilio Salinas, Consul-General of Mexico in the city of Los Angeles. Various subjects were discussed, first of them being the present European war and the attitude of Mexico with regard thereto. General Salinas said:

"The Mexican Government and the people alike feel in their hearts an intense sympathy towards those who are struggling in the battlefields far away in old Europe. They respect, under every conceivable conception, the causes and aims that originated that war. As the neutrality of our Republic has imposed itself through the undeniable facts and events in which it has been involved for more than seven years, in the series of struggles aimed to conquer her most legitimate liberties, therefore we are not in a position to criticize or favor a social phenomenon which not only is not of our immediate incumbency or dominion, but constitutes a special problem which is very far from the present urgent solution of our own national difficulties of organization and reconstruction. Mexico must not and cannot be otherwise than for herself when we speak about her vitality under the present circumstances. Our neutrality forbids it."

"What is your opinion," was next asked, "as to the supposed 'German propaganda in Mexico' and the charges that are made against your country on account of her determination to remain, as you say, neutral? . . ."

"Before we go farther on this matter, I can say that German propaganda does not exist in Mexico as charged. It has been a very ingenious and elaborate conception of those whose only aspiration is to create for our country international difficulties. Our Republic, with prudent discretion, sees that her products (oil, fibers, metals, etc.) take their way to the Allies of the Entente; so, every day sail from our ports innumerable vessels loaded with our national production. The allied nations are needing all that for the war, and we are selling it to them. It is childish and at the same time absurd to pretend that our country, for the only aim of pleasing those who calumniate us and of erasing the shameful wake that our enemies are trying hard to leave behind in the progressive roads on which we are slowly but firmly marching to our national betterment, would throw aside the resolution of her most pressing and vital problems, for the sake of mixing with our armed forces, even if it be only theoretically, in a struggle of the magnitude of the European war. If in a moment of false enthusiasm we would thoughtlessly throw our resources into the balance of the war, it would mean the public auction of our energies, our blood and our future, and we not only would be not able to lend the Allies the effective help expected from us, but we would be unable to solve our own aforesaid problems and would put at stake the interests of those very Allies in Mexico. The Allies do not pretend to ask such a mistake on our part; they well know that our neutrality is benevolent. They do not ask the absurd, because their sane criterium, their sense of justice, would never exact from Mexico that she would "throw the house out of the window" for the foolish sake of creating a new and tremendous problem of national and international transcendency. The most optimistic must always reach the conclusion that *Mexico needs all her moral and material resources to reconstruct herself.*

GEN. EMILIO SALINAS
Consul General of Mexico at Los Angeles, Cal.

"The publicity that in this country has been given to the supposed 'German propaganda in Mexico' is the product of notorious malice, which is moved from one place to another by our eternal enemies in the struggle which they are vainly making for their own benefit. But Mexico, the undaunted, the young and prolific, knows how to convict her calumniators of all their lies. The *Official Bulletin* of Washington, a United States publication, in a recent number expresses itself in the following manner: 'The American Consul-General at Mexico City, Mexico, notifies that the total subscription for Liberty Bonds in that city and suburbs was $384,050. The quota assigned to the Mexican Capital was $150,000, hence the results were more than double what was expected.' That is the German propaganda which is done in Mexico. We have given the Allies full liberty to collect funds, and as a result, other cities have responded to the call."

"How is it that some of the United States press insists in attributing to Mexico secret understandings with German spies? . . ."

"In the first place, it is not all the American press that insists upon such a foolish assertion. It is clear to the sensible that the papers which have been more persistent on the subject and against Mexico are published in the border States of this country, or in other places which, like New York, are the hot-bed of reaction. This faction is not content with trying to create difficulties for Mexico with the United States and with the Allies by means of entirely erroneous information about our affairs, not being in a position to venture even a simple personal judgment about them, as they have not participated in any manner or form in our Revolutionary evolution. On account of their culpability or indifference and by their systematic opposition to our international good faith, especially as regards the United States and the Allies, they place themselves stubbornly against the clear and only aspect of the actual state of things, national and international, and unconsciously direct their activities, not only against Mexico, but directly or indirectly against the Allies and the United States. Consequently the enemies of Mexico are the enemies of the Allies. Mexico with her people and Government is very far from making any attempt to create new and unreasonable difficulties. Mexico remains sincerely neutral, because her own existence dictates such a policy, and the only thing she wishes is to be let alone so that she may solve her own problems."

"How is it that Mexico allows the publication of papers that appear to be against the Allies? . . ."

"Our Constitution gives full liberty to the press to express its own opinion whenever such expressions do not compromise the security of the Country or the rights of the citizens. It is for this reason that our Government wisely has sent a Circular to all the newspapermen, telling them that when they publish opinions about the European War, for the good of the Country, not to seek to wound the susceptibilities of the nations engaged in it.

"What do you think about the Financial standing of Mexico? . . ."

"The present money circulation in Mexico is all on gold and silver basis. Mexico, with its unexhaustible resources wisely administered, will be able, within a reasonable short time, to come up to the financial standard that belongs to her category."

"Do you think that the total pacification of Mexico will be soon achieved? . . ."

"Mexico, in what respects her essential national life is completely pacified. If there are yet some bands of unattached outlaws who devote themselves to sanguinary acts, this does not necessarily signify that the order and the security of the Mexican people are in any manner endangered. Those same bands of outlaws will slowly disappear as we will systematically resolve our own domestic problems. We are founding many schools, and the education of our people will be the greatest guaranty for the future of our country. We need schools, schools and more schools, and our Government is founding them as rapidly as means will allow.

Admitting Mexican Laborers

Official Regulations That Carefully Guard the Interests and Welfare of All Who Come to This Country

THE Secretary of the Department of Labor has issued the following regulations governing the introduction of Mexican laborers into this country. There has been so much misunderstanding of the matter that THE REVIEW publishes the regulations in full. They are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Office of the Secretary
Washington

DEPARTMENTAL ORDER

Whereas the ninth proviso to Section 3 of the Immigration Act of February 5, 1917, provides "That the Commissioner General of Immigration, with the approval of the Secretary of Labor, shall issue rules and prescribe conditions, including exaction of such bonds as may be necessary, to control and regulate the admission and return of otherwise inadmissible aliens applying for temporary admission;" and,

Whereas in agricultural pursuits, in the maintenance of way on railroads and in certain lignite coal mining enterprises in which Mexican laborers have heretofore been customarily employed, an emergent condition, caused by the war, now exists in the United States, and, while obviously said special exception to general provisions of law should be construed strictly and should not be resorted to except with the object of meeting extraordinary situations or conditions, it can be and should be availed of whenever an emergent condition arises:

Therefore, the following circular providing for the temporary admission of certain alien laborers from Mexico is hereby promulgated by the Department to supersede Department Circular of April 12, 1918, and Regulations of the Bureau of Immigration issued thereunder on the same date, as amended May 10, 1918:

SECTION I

Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 3 of the Immigration Act excluding aliens who being over 16 years of age and physically capable of reading "cannot read the English language, or some other language or dialect" (the "illiteracy test"), or aliens "who have been induced, assisted, encouraged or solicited to migrate to this country by offers or promises of employment . . . or in consequence of agreements, oral, written, or printed, express or implied, to perform labor in this country of any kind, skilled or unskilled" (the "contract-labor clause"), and notwithstanding the provisions of Section 2 of said Act assessing a head tax on account of aliens entering permanently, aliens residing in Mexico who in all other than the respects above mentioned are admissible under the laws of the United States and who are shown to be coming from Mexico to the United States for the purpose of accepting employment may be temporarily admitted without exacting head tax, upon the conditions hereinafter specified, for periods in no instance exceeding the duration of the war.

SECTION II

(a) As to be admissible under the terms of this circular the alien must be coming "for the purpose of accepting employment" (for which reason the "contract-labor" as well as the "illiteracy test" provisions are mentioned above), those who desire to avail themselves of this opportunity, afforded to meet emergent conditions in the United States, may come to or be represented at the boundary to confer with any alien, and such alien must not be temporarily admitted until arrangements for his employment have been perfected.

(b) A prospective employer may initiate an application for permission to import laborers under the provisions hereof by filing such application with either a United States Immigration or a United States Employment official, setting forth the number of laborers desired, class of work, wages offered, and place of proposed employment, and stating that he will comply with all provisions of this circular with respect to any alien admitted to him. Upon the approval in writing of any such application by a United States Employment Officer detailed to a Mexican border port in accordance with Section X hereof or by the United States Employment Officer stationed in the vicinity of the place of proposed employment, the Immigration Officer in charge at such port shall proceed to admit the alien involved in accordance with the provisions hereof.

SECTION III

Emphasis is placed upon the fact that this circular provides for the temporary admission, under the circumstances stated and conditions prescribed of an alien who in all other respects would be admissible under the laws of the United States if he were entering for permanent purposes. The indulgence extends only to the illiteracy, contract-labor, and head tax features of the Immigration Act, and then only if the other conditions are satisfactorily established.

SECTION IV

As admission is to be temporary only and as it is provided that an alien who violates the conditions exacted shall be immediately deported, of course none should be admitted who cannot be returned immediately that necessity arises.

SECTION V

(a) Two unmounted photographs of each applicant for admission under the provisions hereof shall be furnished. A complete personal description of such applicant, and of accompanying members of his family over 16 years of age, if any, shall be taken. These shall be used in preparing, in duplicate, an identification card corresponding in general to that prescribed by Subdivision 9 of Rule 12 of the immigration regulations for the use of an alien who habitually crosses and recrosses the land boundaries.

(b) The blank form of said card (Form 687) may be adapted to this purpose until a more suitable card is devised and printed, an appropriate notation being placed thereon to show that the holder is temporarily admitted to the United States under the terms of this circular, to engage in labor of one of the three kinds herein specified. The original of the card shall be delivered to the admitted alien; the duplicate, on which a record will be kept of changes of employment, of employers, or of address, as hereinafter provided, shall be properly filed and indexed. When any alien admitted hereunder is deported or departs the card shall be taken up.

(c) All members of families 16 years of age and over shall be given such cards; those under 16 shall be recorded, giving name, age, and description.

(d) On the departure or deportation of an alien accompanied by members of his family when admitted, such accompanying members must also depart or be deported, as the case may be.

SECTION VI

(a) An alien admitted under the provisions hereof is allowed to enter temporarily upon the understanding that he has secured employment in the United States, and that he will work only in agricultural pursuits, maintenance of way on railroads, or lignite coal mining as herein described. Therefore, if alien fails, after admission, to accept such agreed employment, or, after acceptance and entry thereon, abandons same to accept employment of any other nature, or to accept any employment with an employer who has not complied with the conditions of this circular, or discontinues laboring and remains idle for as long as two weeks unless by reason of illness of himself or of a member of his family or other disability, such alien shall be immediately arrested and deported under the regular warrant procedure.

(b) An employer of such an alien other than the importing employer must on hiring any such alien comply with the terms of this circular in the same manner substantially and with the same effect as an importing employer. Not later than ten (10) days after the date of such employment he must notify the inspector in charge of the Immigratoin Service at the place where alien entered of the fact of such employment, giving name, place of intended employment, and name and postoffice address of himself and of his employee.

(c) An employer who, having hired any such alien, desires to relinquish his services, shall notify the inspector in charge of the Immigration Service at the place of entry of such intention; such notice shall specify the name of the alien, probable date of cessation of work, and postoffice address of employer and of such alien.

(d) An alien admitted under the provisions of this circular, or whose admission under the circulars superseded hereby is renewed under this circular, must follow none but laboring pursuits of the nature prescribed herein. When any such alien is without employment, unless he immediately returns to Mexico through the port of entry, he shall apply to the inspector in charge of the Immigration Service at the place where he was admitted or to the nearest United States Immigration or United States Employment officer, advising him that he no longer has work, and asking for employment and for the privilege of remaining in the United States for an additional period. Thereupon, if the application is to the Immigration officer, the said officer shall communicate with the appropriate director of the United States Employment Service, and ascertain whether or not work can be secured for such alien; if to an Employment officer, such officer shall forward the application to the nearest Immigration officer for decision. If work is secured, in either manner indicated, an extension of time may be granted the alien on condition that he accept the reemployment. If the alien fail or refuses to accept reemployment under these conditions, deportation shall immediately be effected.

(e) Failure on the part of the employer or alien to give any notice required by this section shall subject such alien to deportation.

SECTION VII

A prospective employer shall be required, as a condition precedent to the temporary admission hereunder of any alien, fully to disclose to the Immigration officer in charge at the port of entry his plans with respect to the employment of such alien, including the wages, how often paid (giving dates), housing conditions, duration of employment; also to give his written promise and stipulation to the following effect, viz.:

(a) That the employer will abide by and comply with all the terms of this circular.

(b) That the employer will pay the current rate of wages for similar labor in the community in which the admitted alien is to be employed.

(c) That with respect to housing and sanitation the laws and rules of the State in which the laborer is to be employed will be observed by the employer. If employed in a State that has no law on said subject, such conditions must be satisfactory to the Secretary of Labor.

(d) That the employer will keep the officer in charge at the port of entry advised promptly of any change made in his plans as originally disclosed with respect to the place, duration or character of the employment of the alien by him, and wages and times of payment thereof.

(e) That the employer will notify such officer immediately upon learning that any alien admitted to him purposes to leave his employ, and furnish such information as he can secure with respect to the place to which the alien is going and the name of the party for whom such alien is to work.

(f) That the employer will promptly notify such officer whenever any alien admitted to him has left his employ (without his previous knowledge of the alien's intent to do so) and will furnish all possible information to assist immigration officers in ascertaining whether or not the alien has entered other employment, or whether or not the conditions of this circular are being observed.

(g) That fifteen (15) days before the expiration of the period for which the alien is admitted to him the employer will advise the inspector in charge at the port of entry whether or not it is his and the alien's desire that the latter shall remain with the former for an additional period of employment.

(h) That if it becomes necessary to deport any alien (or any alien family) admitted in pursuance of this circular because of a violation of, or failure to observe, the conditions specified herein the expense of removal of the alien from the place where apprehended to the boundary shall be borne by the importer; provided that when the cause of deportation arises while alien is employed by a person other than the importer without the consent of the latter, then such expense shall be borne by such subsequent employer.

(i) That the employer shall retain from the admitted alien's wages the sums named in Section VIII hereof and transmit same for deposit in the Postal Savings Bank in the manner therein specified.

SECTION VIII

As additional means of insuring that an alien admitted under the provisions of this circular will eventually leave the United States, the following conditions shall be observed:

(a) Each such alien shall at the time of admission (with the assistance of United States Immigration or United States Employment officers) apply for permission to open an account in the Postal Savings Bank at the port of entry, on which deposits to such alien's credit will later be made in the manner hereinafter provided.

(b) The employer shall withhold from the alien's wages twenty-five (25) cents for each day's service such alien renders while he continues in the employ of such employer, until the money so withheld aggregates one hundred (100) dollars. If the alien changes employers in accordance with the provisions of this circular before the money so retained aggregates one hundred (100) dollars, those employing him subsequently to the original importer shall continue withholding twenty-five (25) cents per day from his wages until the amount withheld, added to that withheld by previous employer or employers, aggregates one hundred (100) dollars. The same arrangement shall apply in cases in which the original admission was for a period not sufficient to produce the one hundred (100) dollars and in which a renewal of the period of admission is granted by the Immigration officers.

(c) On each pay day the employer shall transmit to the inspector in charge of the Immigration Service at the place of the alien's entry the money withheld from alien's wages in pursuance of the preceding paragraph. Postal money orders payable to such officer, purchased at the employer's cost, shall be used in making these remittances. Said officer shall deposit the money order in the local Postal Savings Bank to the credit of the alien from whose wages the sum represented has been withheld, retaining in his possession the receipt for such deposit. The funds so deposited will remain in the Postal Savings Bank until the alien leaves the United States, whereupon said officer shall arrange for the delivery to the alien of the money so saved and the interest, if any, accrued thereon. If the alien leaves the United States before he has worked a sufficient period for the amounts retained to aggregate one hundred (100) dollars, the total amount so retained, with accrued interest, if any, shall be returned to him in like manner.

(d) After the sums withheld, transmitted, and deposited in accordance with the preceding two paragraphs have aggregated one hundred (100) dollars, the sum of one (1) dollar per month shall be withheld from the laborer's wages, transmitted to the inspector in charge at the port of entry, and deposited in similar manner; the withholding of this amount monthly to continue so long as the alien remains in the United States, and the funds so accumulated to be withdrawn from the Postal Savings Bank and returned to alien at the time of his departure, under the supervision of the inspector in charge at port of entry. This provision shall be applied to both original and subsequent employers.

(e) If the emergent conditions mentioned herein still exist at the end of any period of admission under the terms of this circular, then, upon the joint application of any such alien and his employer showing the necessity for alien's service for a further term, the Immigration office at the port of admission is authorized to extend the temporary admission of such alien for a period not exceeding the duration of the war. If the sums withheld have not aggregated one hundred (100) dollars, the withholding thereof shall continue until such amount has accumulated to alien's credit. The withholding of one (1) dollar per month as provided in paragraph (c) above will thereafter be commenced or continued as circumstances require.

(f) If such emergent conditions still exist at the end of any such period of admission under the circulars superseded hereby, then, upon the joint application of any such alien and his employer showing the necessity for alien's service for a further term, the Immigration office at the port of admission is authorized to extend the temporary admission of such alien for a period not exceeding the duration of the war; provided the alien (with the assistance of his employer, or, if he is simultaneously changing his place of employment, of the nearest United States Immigration or United States Employment officer) shall apply to the local postmaster for permission to open an account in the Postal Savings Bank at the border port through which he entered the United States, and both the alien and his employer shall agree to comply then and thereafter with all applicable provisions of this circular, it being intended that such cases shall, to the fullest extent practicable, be placed upon the same basis as those arising under this circular. Failure or refusal to observe this requirement will result in alien's deportation.

(g) All information reaching the border ports of entry, as the result of the making of deposits or otherwise, with respect to changes in the location or employment of any laborer admitted hereunder shall be noted on the duplicate of such laborer's identification card.

SECTION IX

The Supervising Inspector at El Paso shall designate such officers as may be necessary at each station to give attention to the details of keeping in touch with aliens temporarily admitted under the provisions of this circular or of those superseded hereby; and it shall be the especial duty of the officers so designated to see that the temporarily admitted aliens do not remain permanently in the United States and do not violate the terms of this circular by engaging in other than the specified laboring pursuits, or otherwise. Officers will be designated to follow up aliens admitted hereunder, and employers to whom such aliens have been admitted, or for whom they may be laboring, will be expected and called upon to assist such officers in enforcing this circular, including arrest and deportation of aliens in proper cases. Officers of the United States Employment Service shall cooperate with officers of the Immigration Service in the enforcement of this section; also in supplying information to the inspector in charge at port of entry regarding changes in location or employment of aliens admitted hereunder.

SECTION X

At each of the principal Mexican border ports of entry officers of the United States Employment Service shall be detailed to assist the Immigration officers in the administration of this circular. In the event that the employer is represented by an agent, or by an association through its agent, or by an officer detailed as hereinafter provided, in securing laborers, the authority of the agent or association to act for such employer should be fully established in writing, and in every instance the employer shall be required to execute and forward as soon as possible to the officer in charge at the port of entry the agreement specified in Section VII of this circular. It shall be competent for the officers of the Immigration Service to act with any officer detailed by the National Council of Defense, the United States Food Administration, the United States Employment, or any State organization of either, or any other organization, public or private, authoritatively representing the industries herein specified.

SECTION XI

The Commissioner-General of Immigration is hereby directed to enforce and administer the provisions of this circular, which shall become effective on and after June 20, 1918.

W. B. WILSON,
Secretary of Labor.

The Department of Fomento has recently granted permission to the following companies to sink new wells in the petroleum region: The East Coast Oil Company, at Panuco, Vera Cruz; the Juan Casiano Tuxpam Petroleum Company, at Tuxpam, Vera Cruz, and the Puebla of Panuco Company at Ozuloama, Vera Cruz.

Stewart M. Browman has been granted permission by the Secretary of Communications and Public Works to construct two wharves on the banks of the Panuco river, near Tampico, for the accommodation of the traffic in petroleum.

Labor Law of Vera Cruz State

Whole Section Devoted to Relations Between Employer and Employee

THE new constitution of the State of Vera Cruz, now in effect, devotes a whole section to the question of labor and the relations of workmen to employers in order to prevent the abuses, especially in the various forms of peonage, which existed in the past.

The maximum time for day labor is 8 hours, and that for night labor, *i. e.*, between the hours of 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., is 7 hours. Boys over 12 and under 16 may work only 6 hours, and neither women nor boys under 16 may do night work in factories or work after 10 p. m. in commercial establishments. All laborers must enjoy one day of rest for every six days of work, and women are allowed a month with full pay subsequent to child birth.

Wages may not be below a minimum to be fixed by local committees, taking into consideration the cost of living in the community, and may not be paid in merchandise or any form of money except legal currency. Wages must be equal for the same kind of work regardless of sex or nationality. Contracts may not provide for the payment of wages in a saloon, store, or the like, except in the case of employees of such establishments, or oblige a workman to buy articles for consumption in a certain shop or place, or compel him to wait longer than a week to get his day wages.

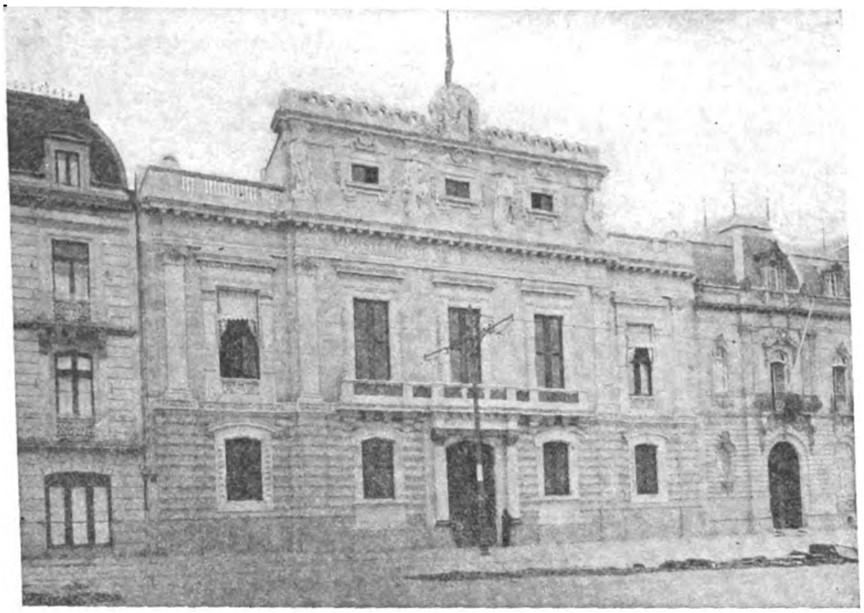
In the case of large enterprises, such as plantations, mines, and factories, which employ over 100 laborers, comfortable and hygienic living quarters must be provided at a monthly rent of not over one-half of 1 per cent of their census value; and in case such factories, mines, and the like are located outside large towns provision must also be made for schools and infirmaries and, if the community numbers over 200, for a public market, a building for municipal purposes, and centers of recreation —establishments for the sale of intoxicating liquors and gaming houses, however, being forbidden.

Strikes are declared lawful when the object is to bring about an equilibrium between the different factors of production, provided no acts of violence are committed; but employers may close their factories, mines, or establishments only in case of excess production. Differences between capital and labor are to be submitted to a board of conciliation and arbitration formed of an equal number of representatives of the employers and laborers and one representative of the Government.

No employer may discharge an employee without just cause or for having become a member of a labor organization or for having taken part in a lawful strike unless he indemnify the employee with three months' wages, but the employee may insist on the carrying out of the contract if he prefers. A workman may also insist on receiving three months' wages in case he finds it necessary to leave his work because of maltreatment of himself or members of his family at the hands of the employer or his subordinates when the employer tolerates such ill treatment.

Foreign Gold Coin Circulated

It Is Made Unlimited Legal Tender for All Dues, Public and Private—The Relative Value in Mexican Coin



The Department of Foreign Affairs of the Mexican Government

UNDER date of May 14, 1918, President Carranza, by virtue of the extraordinary powers in fiscal affairs vested in him by the Mexican Congress, issued the following decree:

ARTICLE 1. In addition to the coins specified in the Currency Law of March 25, 1905, and other pertinent regulations, foreign gold coins of every kind are hereby declared unlimited legal tender.

ART. 2. An obligation to pay any sum in Mexican money shall be satisfied by the delivery of either coins of legal tender to the amount of their face value pursuant to the Monetary Laws in force, or foreign coins in unlimited amount, according to the rates fixed in accordance with the following article. Accordingly all federal, state and municipal offices, as well as all private establishments, companies and individuals shall be bound to accept, in unlimited amount, such foreign coins in payment of debts.

This article shall be observed without prejudice to the provisions of the laws relating to payments already enacted or which may be enacted.

ART. 3. The Treasury Department shall fix the rates at which foreign coins are to be received; these rates shall not be changed so long as the obligation to receive such coins shall subsist, and they will be fixed with reference to the parity of the Mexican gold peso .75 gram of pure gold.

ART. 4. Obligations to pay in foreign coin contracted within or without the Republic to be carried out in the Republic shall be satisfied by the delivery either of foreign coin of the kind agreed upon, or of Mexican coins of legal currency at the official rate, in pursuance to the Monetary Laws; it being understood that the laws relating to payments shall continue in effect with this single modification in so far as relates to the said obligations to pay in foreign coin.

ART. 5. The foregoing provisions may not be waived, and any agreement to the contrary shall be wholly void.

ART. 6. The obligation to deliver to the mint for coinage the gold bullion which must be reimported by exporters of Mexican pesos and of gold and silver bullion under the decree of April 26, last, on the taxation of metals, shall not be made effective if the said exporters reimport foreign gold coins to an amount equal to the gold bullion they are required to reimport; if the importation of gold be in bars, they shall be bound to deliver the amount provided in the above mentioned decree to the mint for coinage.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 3 of the decree issued under date of May 14, 1918, declaring foreign gold coins of every kind unlimited legal tender throughout the Republic, the Department of Heuerita has seen fit to fix the following rates for the said foreign gold coins, in relation to the unit of the Mexican National Monetary System:

Countries	Coins	Rates in Mexican Money
United States	Dollar	2.00
Austria-Hungary	Kronen	0.40
England	Pound	9.66
France	Franc	0.38
Germany	Mark	0.47
Italy	Lire	0.38
Japan	Yen	0.99
Netherlands	Florin	0.80
Spain	Peseta	0.38

Insulting the Mexicans

Texans probably know more about the Mexicans than the residents of any other State, unless it is Arizona, both being next door to them. The Texas newspapers are now complaining that the moving picture men deliberately insult the Mexicans by showing them as bandits and nothing else. This has a tendency to spread the belief that the Mexicans are all of that class, but as a matter of fact they are not all cutthroats and murderers.

The newspapers of Texas call upon the government to take the moving picture men in hand and regulate them. They call attention to the fact that this country is now at peace with Mexico and that there is no reason our relations should not be pleasant.

We know there is German propaganda in Mexico which should be met with American propaganda of friendliness.

The foolish idea that Mexico is always plotting against this country is of a piece with the absurdity that Serbia was plotting against Austria-Hungary. Mexico is a nation of fifteen million people and very great natural resources, and the United States is its natural market place, also its neighbor, and should be its friend.

The custom of depicting the Mexican as a treacherous or odious type is not only unfair as between man and man, but is the worst sort of economic policy. Today Texas is searching the byways and hedges for labor, yet there is a rich store of labor just south of the Rio Grande which might be availed of for all seasonable activities if there were not, with such good reasons, a fear and a prejudice in Mexican minds. We often charge that the Mexicans are not good neighbors. How good are we as neighbors? Isn't the major obligation on our side, considering that we deem ourselves a more learned and progressive people?

Why do we seek unceasingly to belittle and provoke the Mexican nation and the Mexican people? They need our kindness not our contempt. That they would respond to the right treatment is not to be doubted. Their idea that we wish them ill is constantly fertilized by American writers and speakers who cover them with literary or oratorical obloquy.

If Mexico were helped rather than hindered toward a proper understanding of this country's attitude toward her the result would be inestimably beneficial to both countries. The United States needs Mexico's friendship just as Mexico needs the friendship of the United States. It is time we quit heaping insults upon the Mexicans in newspapers and moving pictures and other ways, this being done by only a few, and let them know that we desire to be good neighbors.—Tulsa (Okla.) *Times*.

Arrangements are being made for the establishment of a factory in Yucatan for the manufacture of bags and sacks from the hebequen fiber which in the past has been exported. There is an extensive demand for such articles in all portions of Mexico. At first the factory will have a capacity of ten thousand sacks daily, but this will be increased as rapidly as possible. The sugar growers of Cuba use ten million sacks annually and it is proposed to supply this demand

The Tax on Precious Metals

What Producers or Importers of Gold, Silver, Copper and Other Mineral Products Must Pay

(This Decree was published under date of April 29, but is repeated in the present number owing to errors and omissions in its first publication)

Decree fixing Internal Stamp Tax on Gold, Silver and Industrial Metals:

Article 1. Gold, silver and industrial metals produced in the Republic or coming from abroad shall be subject to an internal stamp tax, without any other exceptions than those expressly stipulated in this law. This tax shall be paid in future as follows:

(a) At the rate of 8 per cent on the value of gold and silver exported in the form of mineral rock or earth, concentrates, cyanides, sulphides, smelter tailings, or in whatever other form in which they may be combined or blended with substances not properly speaking metallic.

(b) At the rate of 7 per cent on the value of gold and silver exported, after having been treated in the country to such point as no longer to contain any mixture of other metals irrespective of the fineness of the product.

(c) At the rate of 6 per cent on the value of copper when exported in the form of natural ore or concentrates, provided the latter does not contain over 50 per cent of copper, and provided further that the value of electrolitic copper in New York be 20 cents U. S. currency, or over, per pound. When the value of the copper be less than 20 cents U. S. currency per pound, the rate shall be 5 per cent:

(d) At the rate of 5 per cent on the value of copper presented in bullion or concentrates, provided the latter contain more than 50 per cent of côpper, 300 grammes of silver and 5 grammes of gold per ton, and prôvided, further that the price of electrolitic copper in New York be 20 cents U. S. currency, or more per pound; it being understood that the rates mentioned in Clauses (a) and (b) of this article shall be paid for the amounts of gold and silver they contain, and with such exceptions as are established in Article 4 hereof.

(e) At the rate of 4 per cent. on the value of copper presented in bullion or concentrates containing more than 50 per cent. of copper. 300 grammes of silver and 5 grammes of gold per ton, and provided, further, that the price of electrolitic copper be lower than 20 cents U. S. currency per pound; it being understood that the rates assigned to these metals under this article shall be paid with such exceptions as are laid down in Article 4 hereof.

(f) At the rate of 2½ per cent. on the value of copper presented in bullion or concentrates, containing more than 50 per cent. of copper and less than 300 grammes of silver and 5 grammes of gold per ton, irrespective of the price of copper in New York; it being understood that the rates for these metals shall be paid as provided in this article, with such exceptions as are laid down in Article 4 hereof.

(g) At the rate of 3 per cent on the value of lead, tungsten, molibdenum, manganese, graphite and mercury.

(h) At the rate of one per cent on the value of zinc, tin, antimony, and other metals, minerals and substances containing such metals, but which are not included in the classification in the foregoing clauses.

(j) At the rate of 7 per cent on the gold and silver presented to the mint for coinage.

Art. 2. The mint shall receive gold and silver from individuals for coinage, without limitation as to gold; in the case of silver a special order from the Treasury Department shall be necessary. Pure gold will be purchased at the rate of 1,333.33 pesos per kilogram. The kilogram of pure silver will be purchased at the equivalent in Mexican currency of its price on the New York market on the day of its presentation to the mint, taking into account freight and insurance from Mexico to New York, and with such limitations as the Treasury Department shall set, whenever this price shall exceed 76½ cents U. S. Currency per ounce Troy.

Art. 3. For the purposes of the collection of the tax on metals exported to which Article 1 refers, the kilogram of pure gold shall always be calculated at the rate of 1,333.33 pesos. In the case of silver and other metals, the Treasury Department shall each month issue a schedule of rates to govern during the following month, taking as a basis the current prices of metals in New York, either in their refined or natural states, in accordance with the special circumstances of each case.

The tax on gold and silver intended to be minted shall be calculated at the rates given in Article 2. In both cases the rates governing on the day of the presentation of the metals to the mint, to the Federal Assay Offices or to the Custom Houses shall be applied.

Art. 4. The Internal stamp tax shall not be paid by:

(a) Old Mexican and foreign gold coins presented to the mint for recoinage; these shall only pay the coinage, assay and smelters dues as the case may be.

(b) Gold and silver exported in the form of ore and stone, earth or mineral dust, whether these are in their natural state or scientifically treated, or whether they be sulphides, cyanides or smelter tailings, provided the amount of gold contained in any case does not exceed two grams per ton, and in the case of silver 250 grams per ton.

(d) Gold and silver which, after importation into the Republic in any of the forms described in paragraph B hereof, may be exported within the next four months in a metallic state, after having undergone metallurgical treatment in smelters or other like establishments existing in the Republic.

(e) Gold and silver used in the national industries, provided the interested parties satisfactorily prove such use to the mint or Federal Assay Offices.

(f) Samples of minerals exported in their natural state, whose weight does not exceed 10 kilograms and whose intrinsic value, fixed by expert advice, does not exceed 10 pesos, in accordance with the administrative rulings at present in force.

(g) Iron ore.

Art. 5. Assay duties shall only be paid when this operation shall be carried out by mandate of the law, by administrative ruling or at the request of the interested party; smelter dues shall also only be paid when, because of the lack of uniform character of the metal contained in the bars or other pieces submitted, it becomes necessary to melt them for their assay; similarly seignorage shall only be paid when the metals are coined. The amount of dues mentioned in this article shall be fixed by rate issued by the Treasury Department on the basis of the cost of operation.

Art. 6. Assay dues shall not be paid when the operation is carried out by mandate of law or by administrative ruling. provided it

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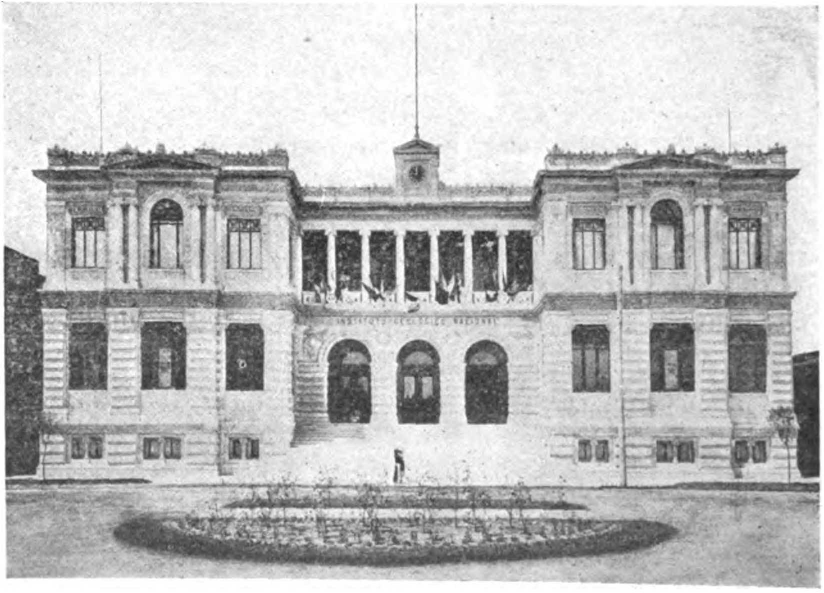
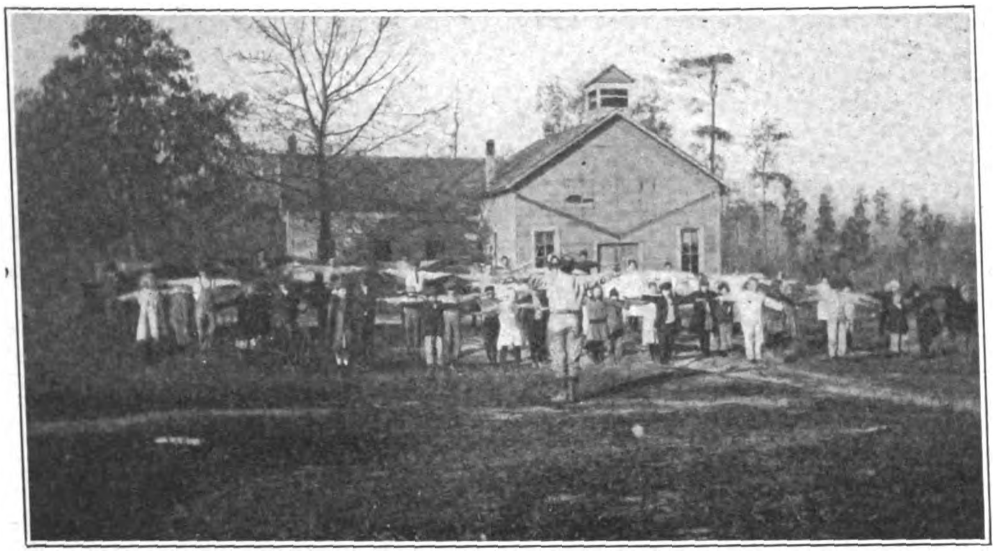


The National Geological Institute, Mexico City

Successful Co-operative Colony

The Llano del Rio Settlement in the Highlands of the State of Louisiana—An Example Worthy of Imitation

BY EDWARD DICKENSON



School Children at Llano in Morning Calisthenics

IT CAN no longer be truthfully said that co-operative ownership has never been proven practicable in a test conducted on a large enough scale to be conclusive. The proof has actually been furnished. It is being furnished daily. Anyone who will take the trouble to go to Stables, Louisiana, can see it with his own eyes.

The proof is found in the Llano del Rio Co-operative Colony, which is located at Stables. There collectivism is really in operation on a tract of 20,000 acres of land and is working as definitely as the law of gravitation works. There several hundred colonists—substantial, serious, industrious men and women, with their children—are living under the co-operative system and believe it such an improvement over the competitive system that they wouldn't go back to the old plan for all the money on earth. All of these people are regularly employed, all are self-supporting, all are cheerful and contented, and none are ever bothered with thoughts of rent bills, strikes, lockouts, cuts in wages and the other worries of the competitive system.

The Llano Colony is virtually a world within a world. Outside, the old scheme of things prevails—the scheme inherited from the days of the cave man, when might made right and property belonged to those strong enough to take it and keep it. Outside, two men struggle for the same crust, and one eats while the other goes hungry. Outside, Dives feasts on the finest food, while Lazarus is lucky if he can lick up the leavings from the former's table.

In Llano Colony all this is done away with. No man has more good things than another—or not unless, after working under this system of equal wages, he has saved more than his neighbor and can, therefore, buy more of the comforts of life. No man owns the land and makes a big profit off the labor of other men who till it for measly pay. The land is owned in common by the community, those working on it get the same pay as those working in the offices or the store, and the products of the land are sold at the commissary to the colonists at actual cost of production, plus a trifle for transfer, packing and storing. Food raised on colony land already costs much less than what it would cost if bought elsewhere. Later it will cost even less than now.

What is true of the land is true of the machinery and industries. Nobody owns the machine shop or printing office and "salts" away a fat sum left after the employes have been paid. All get the same salaries. And whatever profits there are, go into the common till, the colony treasury, to help reduce the cost of supplies. The prosperity of an industry is the prosperity of every employe. Its misfortune, were there such, would likewise affect one no less than another.

Membership in the colony assures a man or a family free lodging, either in a room in the hotel or in one of the numerous cottages on the plantation. Medical service is furnished free. Instruction is free, not only to children, but to adults who wish to attend night school, studying languages or other subjects. The curriculum will be enlarged from time to time, as the growth of the colony will permit. A weekly musical entertainment, with recitations and a brief address, interspersed, is furnished free, as also is a weekly dance. A library has been opened and a gymnasium will be provided in the near future.

It will be seen that collective ownership of the means of production and distribution, as practiced in Llano Colony, does not interfere in any way with the privacy of home life or with individual ownership of articles of a purely personal nature. This bugaboo of fear, which has obsessed so many—the writer, too, before he learned what co-operation really means—can be dismissed from the mind at once. Land, machinery, houses, tools, etc., belong to the community. But every individual or family is free to bring to the colony or acquire after coming there, bedding, furniture, pictures, dishes, books, toothbrushes, towels, suspender buttons or anything else he or it may want in the household. The home life is as sacred and as separate as it ever is under the competitive system—more so than in most cases in the outside world, for it cannot be disturbed by factory shutdowns or acts of money-grabbing landlords.

Fuel is furnished free, the vast Llano tract containing enough wood probably to heat every home for a couple of decades or longer. Aside from a little fuel for cooking purposes, artificial heat is needed only a few months in the year, and then much less than elsewhere in the United States.

There are no churches yet, but any colonist or colonists are welcome to conduct services of any kind that may be wished. The church instinct is gratified among many of the colonists in regular informal gatherings, in which questions of ethics, spiritual development and social justice are discussed in a friendly and interesting way. The good derived from these meetings is tremendous.

Both by reason of the practical methods of its management and the vast natural resources at its command, the colony is successful. Reference has been made to methods and the system. A word should now be said of the resources. The land is situated in the high-

(*Concluded on page* 45)

Forest Scene on a Llano Plantation

Mexican Byways and Highways

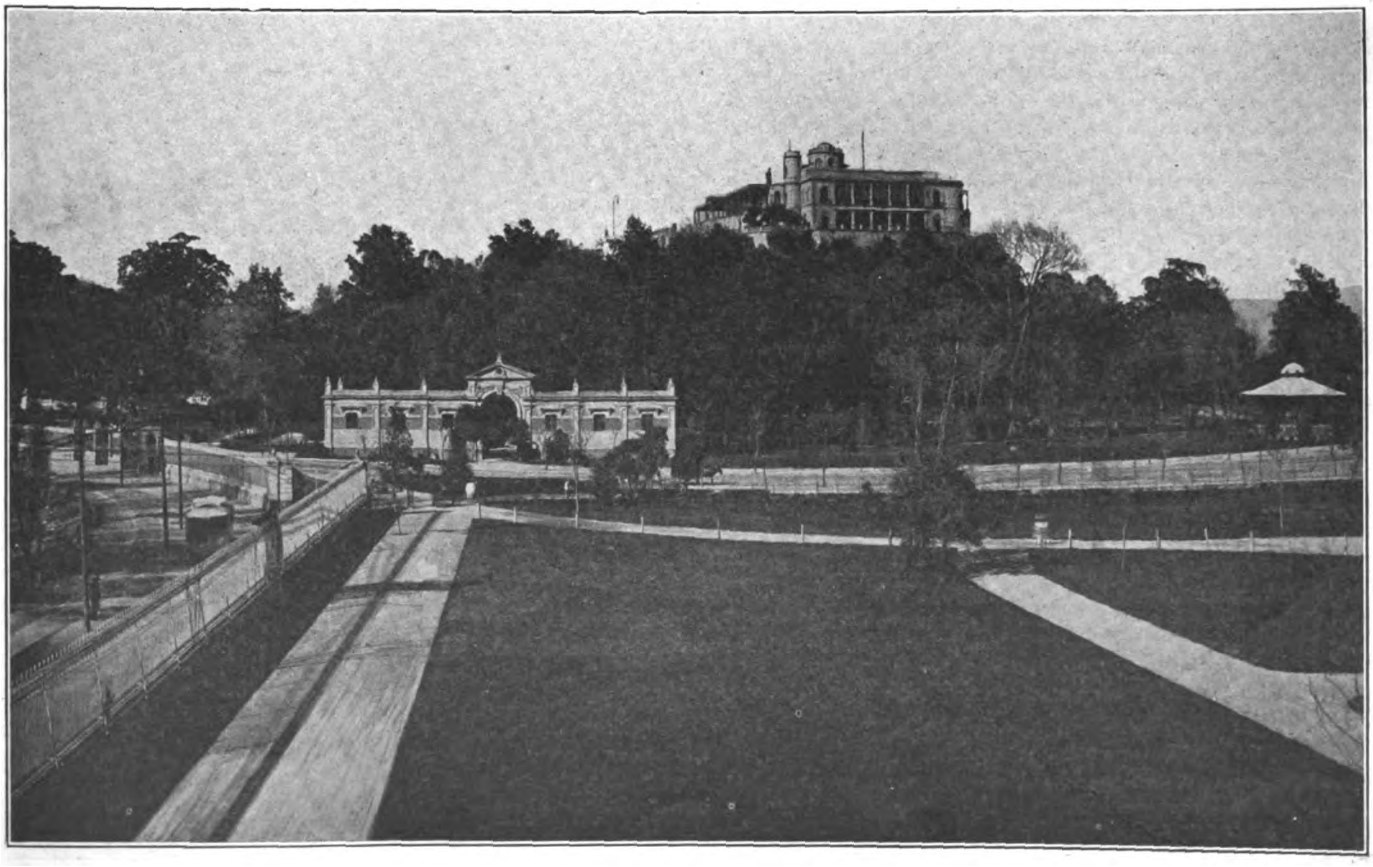
Scenes and Experiences Away From the Usual Paths of Travelers and Writers

BY GEO. F. WEEKS

WE DID not follow the ancient Indian-Conquistadore trail for any great length of time, but soon left it and struck off across country in order to get a fair idea of the character of the timber. To a Californian, accustomed to the giant redwoods and pines of the Coast Range and the Sierra, the long-leaf pine forests of the Sierra Madre seem small by comparison. But there are vast tracts here of trees ranging from six inches to four feet in diameter and of corresponding height. The table lands of the mountains are of a rolling character, making the timber over large areas readily accessible, while at small expense wagon roads could be constructed and with sawmills at central points a large amount of lumber could be got out at low cost. Hundreds of thousands of trees too small to be sawed into lumber could be converted into railroad ties and "packed" on mules and burros to the nearest point on the railroad, which, indeed, was being done at the time dealt with. The contract price delivered at stations is 85 cents each. Natives cut and hew them for 18 cents each, while transportation brings the entire cost up to about half the price paid by the railroads, leaving a profit of at least 40 cents per tie, and in some cases of fully 50 cents each. There is also a ready market for any quantity of "morillas," poles five or six inches in diameter and of varying lengths, which are used in place of sawed scantling for the construction of roofs in all classes of buildings. The production of turpentine could also be carried on with great profit in these mountain timber tracts, since the climate is of such a character that operations could be prosecuted for seven or eight months annually, instead of being confined to a few months each season as in less favored localities. There are extensive areas of fine timber lands in the Sierra Madre which are still to be had for one or two dollars an acre, but this will not long be the case, as American capitalists are rapidly buying up the best of the lands, and holding them merely as an investment and not for immediate development. The natural increase in values within the next few years will return them a profit of several hundred per cent on their capital.

In the latter part of the afternoon we began to encounter streams whose waters flowed to the westward and contributed to the Pacific Ocean. There is a peculiarity about the streams in the mountains of western Durango, and that is that all the water has a peculiar blue tint, more properly, perhaps, called opaline. At first glance one is apt to fancy that the water is impure and has been roiled by animals or humans, but he soon learns that the color is a natural one, though to what cause it is due I could not learn. This peculiarity is seen all the way down to the Tierra Caliente west of the mountain range.

About 4 o'clock we came out into a clearing or more properly cienega, or mountain meadow, which had been fenced and cultivated to corn. On one side of this cienega was a rocky bluff, and here we found an immense cave formed by an overhanging ledge. This opening was so large that it had been divided by low stone walls into a series of pens or corrals for both human and brute animals, and here the men had lived who cultivated the corn crop, though harvest was now over and the farmers had gone back to the warmer valley below to pass the winter. Although we had some small wall tents with folding poles (an admirable contrivance for mountain travel in cold weather), it was not thought worth while to erect them in the "shelter" of this cave, called by the way La Cueva de las Boquillas (the cave of little mouths), and as a result I passed one of the coldest and most uncomfortable nights of the entire journey. Soon after nightfall there came a chill and piercing wind from the direction in which the cave faced, and despite blankets, canvas sheets and coats, the blasts penetrated through the crevices and sleep was impossible for any extended period. In the morning I found the water in my canteen frozen solid, and it was necessary to break ice of a good thickness in order to perform one's ablutions—something by the way that was watched with great curiosity by my traveling companions, who evidently considered the operation as entirely superfluous. The arrieros, the cook, the guide and the boy never made any attempt to sleep, but squatted around the fire all night, only leaving it in order to obtain fresh supplies of wood. Just



Distant View of the Famous Castle of Chapultepec

before leaving the cave about 10 o'clock in the morning, and while it was still cold enough to make a fire very enjoyable, the boy threw all the remaining wood upon the flames. The guide at once stopped him and told him to save the wood for others—this, although we were in the midst of a vast forest covering millions of acres. "What others?" asked the boy. "For other Christian men and women," he replied, and made the boy remove the logs from the fire.

This cave has been used as a camping place for ages, and was evidently a favorite resort of the Indians long before the coming of the white people. In an immense boulder I saw two mortars about 18 inches in diameter and over a foot deep that had been used for grinding acorns, etc., while all about were fragments of old stone implements. The floor of the cave itself was considerably above the normal level, having been built up by the age long accretion of debris, and I doubt not if excavations were made objects of great interest might be found. Unfortunately we were not provided with any implements suitable for the purpose, else I should have done a little searching on my own account.

About noon we began to find a rougher country, making travel all the more difficult since we were still without any trail to follow and were going "cross country" along the lines of least resistance. We had skirted or avoided some rather rugged quebradas, but at last came to one which we soon found must be crossed. Quebrada, by the way, is the name given in this mountain country to what are called canyons in California and all over the coast. The word quebrada means broken, and it is not without good reason that it is used in this connection. The canyons of the Sierra Madre are mostly great gashes cut into the mountains, with precipitous walls thousands of feet in height, where an almost straight drop of 2000 or 3000 feet is not uncommon, and with scenery whose grandeur is not excelled by that of the Yosemite—indeed, much of it is not even equaled by that far-famed valley. The precipitous character of these quebradas can be judged from the fact that in one instance which I will relate later I dropped not less than 6000 feet in little over three hours—and did it after dark, too, down a trail of the most hair-raising narrowness and steepness.

The quedraba which we encountered and which had to be crossed was entirely trailless, and the Mayor-Domo, the guide and the arrieros rode for some time up and down the brink before a place was found where it seemed possible to descend into it. And when such place was at length discovered it did not commend itself to me as being even "jack-assable," let alone passable for humans. But the guide plunged down the declivity, the Mayor-Domo came next, and I followed with the mental ejaculation, "Well, if you can' go down into that hole I guess old California can follow." And follow I did for over half an hour of breathless sliding, slipping and jumping—I dismounted before I had gone far, having no desire to turn a somersault of a thousand feet or so. At last we got down to the bottom of the quebrada, and then came the problem of getting up the other side. Another long search was necessary, and after awhile the guide put his mule at a bank of loose rock that had an angle of a good deal more than 45 degrees. Indeed, to one standing at the base it seemed as though the walls of the quedrabra towered almost straight up to the zenith. The guide and the Mayor-Domo rode their animals in zigzag fashion up the cliff, and again California followed, but on foot. The elevation here is over 8000 feet, and one cannot climb far or for many minutes without losing breath, consequently it was a long and weary journey to the summit. I was left far in the rear, and even the heavily laden pack mules had long since passed over the rim of the quebrada when I at last reached level ground.

Late in the afternoon we struck the old trail again, and followed it down into and across the "Quebrada Hondo," or deep canyon. The first plunge into this quebrada is down what is called "La Escalera," or the ladder, and a veritable ladder cut or rather worn into the solid rock it was. Here even the guide prudently dismounted, and each waited until the other had reached safety below before starting, lest a loose rock might be started by one of the mules, with disastrous results to any one on the lower part of the ladder. In another place subsequently, very similar to this, I noticed a freshly erected cross, and on inquiry was told that only a week previously a man had been killed instantly by a rock sent rolling down upon him by a mule passing just above on the trail. This is a contingency which travelers on these steep mountain trails should constantly guard against. And you cannot depend upon the average mozo or guide to warn you—you must be on your own guard. The natives are too used to the danger to pay any attention to it, and when one is killed his companions shrug their shoulders, and with an "It is as God wills," go quietly along and invite death in the same way.

We came now into a country where the cliffs and boulders had been worn into all sorts of fantastic shapes by the action of the elements. The cliffs are full of caves, caused by the alternate layers of hard and soft material, while it requires very little imagination to see all sorts of statues, busts and old carvings cut out by erosion. Here, on the summit of a lofty pinnacle, is an almost exact representation of a lion couchant, weather worn to be sure, but nearly perfect in outline. Here is a replica of the Sphinx, there is the bust of a statesman, here is a garden full of gigantic mushrooms, ten to fifteen feet high, and of solid rock; there is a massive boulder superimposed upon another in apparent defiance of all the laws of gravity. On every hand one sees some oddity, the work of Nature's hand. Now we come to a great cave with a rude breastwork of boulders in front, and we halt while the Mayor-Domo tells the thrilling tale of how a party of freighters was once besieged here by Indians and of the three days' fight that followed, ending by the defeat of the Indians after nearly every one of the freighters had been wounded and all were nearly dead from hunger and thirst. As we stand here in the silent forest one fancies that he can almost hear the shots, the cries of the combatants, the yells of the Indians, the groans of the wounded and dying. There is a little cluster of crosses, mute witnesses to this long-ago tragedy of the Sierra.

All afternoon we passed through fine timber, much of which, tens of thousands of fine trees in fact, had recently been girdled in preparation for clearing the surface of some gently rolling plateaus and gulches and preparing the land for cultivation. Millions of feet of valuable lumber are thus being destroyed, and one can but wonder if any crop can possibly be raised at this elevation which will in any way recompense what seems to be a wanton and foolish destruction of property of great value.

We camped that night in a narrow canyon on the banks of a brawling ice-cold stream, and lingered long by the fire before turning into a tent which to be sure kept out the icy blast but not the frigid temperature. However, I expected just this sort of hardship, and a great deal more, when I undertook the journey, and as no one ever derived any benefit or made a hardship less easy to bear by grumbling at unavoidables, I take it as it comes and do my best to get a decent night's rest.

Again it is 10 o'clock in the morning before we mount our mules and "hit the trail," despite the fact that all have been up since daybreak. All forenoon we traverse a series of rolling gulches carrying a heavy growth of fine timber, all of which has been marked for destruction by girdling. It will take three years before these trees are dead and dry enough to burn, and hundreds of thousands of dollars will go up in smoke.

Toward noon we come out again into some table lands with a sparser growth of timber than in the gulches. Away off on the border of a little stream we see the glint of the white walls of tents and the blue vapor of ascending smoke, and at once leave our course and go toward the camp to see who the strangers may be and what their occupation is in this remote portion of the Sierra. We find two tents in charge of a mozo, and from him we learn that a couple of New Yorkers have come all the way across the continent for a hunt. That they have been what they probably call "successful" is evidenced by the skins of a poor little fawn and its mother which are spread out to dry on a pine log, while the mozo tells us that they have bagged a quantity of small game of one kind and another. From some hills in the distance comes a fusillade of rifle shots, showing that a battle royal of some sort is progressing, that every living thing is being killed, or at least shot at, but we did not go further out of our way to investigate. I only hoped that they would not imitate the Texas "gentleman" butcher referred to in a subsequent chapter.

About the middle of the afternoon we came to another series of broad, rolling gulches, terminating in extensive cienegas or meadows, and here we found more fine timber. This was the largest that I had seen, reaching four feet in diameter and towering aloft over 100 feet, with scarcely a limb on the straight, smooth trunks. This belt of timber was not so extensive as the one that had been girdled, but the individual trees were much larger. We found that a wagon road to the railroad could be constructed from this point with little difficulty, affording a tempting field for the exploitation of the lumber resources.

After passing across several extensive meadows, comprising hundreds of acres, which in the proper season are rank with nutritious grasses and give sustenance to large bands of cattle, we came just before sunset to the largest meadow of all, and also to what at first I thought was a regular village housing a considerable population. There were several acres on a sloping hillside above the meadow covered with log cabins, sheds, corrals and structures of one kind and anther. It seemed as though I had been transported back to the forests of Michigan fifty years ago, and had come to one of the infrequent clearings of those days, with its log houses and beginnings of civilization which in half a century have developed into one of the richest garden spots of the western hemisphere. But the absence of curling smoke, the entire lack of either human or animal life, and the general air of desolation showed that some unusual condition prevailed, and I was considerably puzzled until the guide explained that this was only a "summer village" or ranch, and that here a great cheese-making industry was carried on during the warm months, but as soon as the frost came, the people went back to their valley homes, driving their herds with them and carrying the product of their season's labors. Subsequently I had an opportunity to test some of the mountain-made cheese, and so excellent did I find it, also so moderate the price, that I straightway laid in a supply that lasted until I was well on my way to Culiacan and the Tierra Caliente.

An examination of the cabins and other buildings showed that they had been constructed in true frontier fashion so familiar to the pioneers of the far West. In the entire group of buildings, 25 or 30 in number, not so much as a single nail or bit of iron of any kind entered into their construction. Neither could I find any indication that any other tools than an axe and perhaps an auger had been used in the task. Possibly the numerous round holes in various timbers had been bored with an auger, but very probably they had been made with a red-hot iron rod. Certainly no other tool had been used. Doors there were, hewed from logs into planks 2 inches thick and 24 inches wide. In the corner at top and bottom a projection was left which fitted into holes gouged or burned into the lintel and threshold respectively, in the same style that the most primitive stone doors were made thousands of years ago. The roofs were sometimes made of shingles and sometimes of wooden "tiles." The shingles were laid on plate pieces hewn from logs, another plate piece was laid on top, and holes were bored or burned through the whole combination—bottom piece, shingles and top piece. Then hard wood pegs were driven into these holes, binding all firmly together. Lastly, and in order to keep the shelter in place, rows of heavy rocks were laid regularly from one end of the roof to the other, producing a decidedly picturesque effect. The wooden tiles referred to are even more laboriously if not ingeniously devised. A pine log about ten inches in diameter is split in two lengthwise, and cut to the length desired for one side of the roof. Then it is carefully hollowed out into tile shape for its entire length. When the required number are made a layer of them is put on the log rafters of the roof, with the hollowed side uppermost. Then another layer is lapped over these, hollow side down, just as with clay tiles, and the whole thing is then weighted down with stones, as is the shingle roof. I saw great many such roofs subsequently in various portions of the Sierra, and they appeared to shed water all right and to answer all the purposes of a much more ambitious structure.

But if the roofs of these cabins are constructed with a great deal of ingenuity, I cannot say as much for the heating and cooking arrangements. On entering one of the cabins, the floor across one end will be found raised a foot or eighteen inches above the rest, with a hewed log for a kerb. Close to the wall is a sort of hearth or fireplace of stone and mud, with curving sides projecting into the room. The back is built close to the logs that form the wall, the mud or mortar being plastered on them a couple of feet above the last of the stones. Immediately above this fireplace is a large opening in the roof, which serves the double purpose of affording an outlet for the smoke and also of preventing anything like under-ventilation in the room. When a good fire is burning it is the duty of some one to keep watch and occasionally throw water on the logs of the wall as they catch fire from the sparks, a duty which has to be performed frequently when a blaze that an American considers is sufficient happens to be going. The idea seems never to have been entertained that by continuing the stone and mortar work up to and through the roof all danger of fire would be obviated and a much more comfortable condition created in every way. It was my good or ill fortune to sleep in a room so arranged, and the opening in the roof for chimney purposes chanced to be on the same side whence came a cold and piercing wind from the highest peaks of the Sierra. It need not be said that I had no reason to complain of poor ventilation that night, whatever I might say about the general discomfort experienced from a overplus of fresh air.

It was at this log cabin village that a laughable incident occurred. The night before, while in camp, the arrieros, the guide and the boy of all work had sat up late making and cooking tortillas, the cook having told them they would have to make them for themselves, as it was not in his contract to stay up half the night. The four working together turned out an ample supply of the ordinary unleavened and unshortened kind, made of common wheat flour. Then as a titbit they made a couple of dozen "gordos," or tortillas mixed with lard and also salted. These they put away and did not eat next day, evidently intending them for a treat. Next night we all gathered in a single room in one of the cabins, where the cook had set up shop, and ate our supper. The boy had a floor seat in the corner nearest the fire, and to him the cook passed a heaping plate of the stew and frijoles. After eating a few mouthfuls the lad put his plate down and sat staring at the fire. One of the men asked him if he felt sick. "No, señor, but I am not hungry. I ate a little this afternoon." Nothing more was said, but after awhile the arrieros commenced to look for their "gordos" as a finishing touch to supper, and then the discovery was made that but two were left. The boy had eaten the other 22! It was agreed that it was hardly to be wondered at that he had no appetite.

After a cold and uncomfortable night we got an early start the following morning, and still keeping on the summit of the mountain, about noon came into the old and well traveled trail from Tepehuanes to Topia and other towns to the west. This trail soon took us down the steepest part of the mountains, and at last we were cheered by the sight of ranches, corn fields, and other evidences of civilization. About 3 o'clock in the afternoon we reached the town of San José de la Boca (St. Joseph of the Mouth—though why "mouth" no one could explain). This ancient pueblo lies on the bank of the Santa Catarina River, and I can safely say that it is the filthiest and most unpleasant of all the Mexican towns I have seen—and I visited a great many. Three miles away over a steep hill is Tepehuanes, on the same river, and enjoying the distinction of being an exceptionally clean and therefore attractive place. It is the terminus of the branch of the internacional Mexicano line from Durango, and usually enjoys a great deal of traffic on that account. But the shutting down of many silver mines in this portion of the Republic has had a deleterious effect upon business of all kinds, and in common with other places Tepehuanes has suffered severely as a result. I found here a very good hotel—one of the best of the native-kept establishments that I have seen—and remained a day resting and preparing for the more strenuous portion of my journey across the mountains. A mozo and mules had been sent from Topia, four days away, and I picked them up on the road as we came in and told the guide to be ready to start early the second day thereafter.

Although I subsequently reduced my traveling outfit to a load easily carried by one mule, when the mozo came to see what I had he declared emphatically that three were needed, although I afterwards learned that this was not so. I have strong suspicions that Hilario (the mozo's name) enjoyed a "rake-off" on my expenses, a not at all uncommon experience in other countries besides Mexico, if travelers are to be credited. However, at the first opportunity the outfit was reduced until a single mule carried it without difficulty over the roughest country and up and down the steepest imaginable trails.

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International Petroleum Institute

The Interesting Project of a Well-known Mexican Mining Engineer for Co-operation by Oil Developers

BY EDWARD M. WILSON, M.E.

The Department of Communications and Public Works, Mexico City

CONSIDERING the modern huge development of the petroleum industry of the world and the vast signification and importance of same, it is logical to suppose that the near future reserves to this industry a field of action limited only by the rate at which its knowledge can be acquired, and by the existing elements at hand to carry out its expansion based upon scientific principles more or less productive.

In view of the above facts, it behooves the producing countries at large to call a convention, at the most opportune time, where their respective representatives will devise ways and plans to quickly scatter the knowledge of this most important industry and facilitate, establish, enlarge or reform the existing elements for the expansion and advancement of same in their countries.

Colleges equipped with modern facilities and having competent professors and assistants especially trained in petroleum, together with libraries, petroleum museums and illustrated lectures and conferences, are some of the best means to diffuse widely the knowledge of the petroleum industry, while the establishment of national petroleum conventions in each country, under the auspices of some directing petroleum association, where those interested in the industry would review and discuss the needs, benefits and losses of same, according to local conditions, would in time contribute towards the expansion of said industry. If colleges, libraries, museums and lectures, exclusively pertaining to petroleum, are needed throughout the producing countries; and national conventions, directed by some permanent commission, would spell the expansion of this industry. It is the business of the leading producing country in the world to take steps toward the founding of an institution of this nature which shall be the parent of all other branches to be established in future throughout the petroleum countries. Therefore the situation to be founded has to fulfill a twofold object, namely, to diffuse internationally, scientific knowledge and principles concerning the world's petroleum industry and to foster debates, meetings and conventions in every producing country, with the purpose of bettering or enlarging the scope of the same industry.

Let the institution in question consist of four departments, each subdivided according to its individual purpose and needs, the whole to be comprehended under the name of International Petroleum Institute.

The Departments

I. Petroleum Engineering Department.
II. Library and Statistics Department.
III. Technological Museum.
IV. Petroleum Association.

I. The Petroleum Engineering Department should be an up-to-date college, equipped with all modern facilities, having a staff of competent professors and assistants, offering a four-year course in Petroleum Mining and Engineering, analogous to those established in the University of Pittsburgh, Pa., the University of Birmingham and other English universities, leading to the degree of Petroleum Geologist and Engineer.

The requirements to enter the college would be that the applicant should hold an A. B. degree from some recognized institution and all the other requirements needed to enter colleges of high standing.

The course should cover thoroughly the three great divisions of the petroleum industry, *i. e.*, Petroleum Geology, Petroleum Mining and Engineering and Petroleum Chemistry.

For the study of Petroleum Geology it is indispensable to be conversant with the general geology of the petroleum zones throughout the world. An exhaustive study of Stratigraphy and Structural Geology is also of the highest importance. This course should be designed by geologist accepted as an authority on the subject and include both theory and field practice.

In Petroleum Mining and Engineering, a thorough training should be given in prospecting and mapping, locating drill-hole sites and camps, methods of extraction, systems of drilling and their applicability, accidents, fishing processes and tools, erection of structures and habitations, buildings of earth, concrete or steel deposits and tanks, tubing, pipe line laying and operation, pumping stations, telegraph, telephone and electric light installation, terminal building and dock construction. The course is to be made up of lectures, recitations, cinematograph conferences and periodic visits to the oil fields.

The chemical part of the course should give complete training in the chemistry of petroleum and its products, not only from the technologist's point of view, but also from that of the refiner's. The principles of inorganic chemistry, together with qualitative and volumetric analysis and elementary organic chemistry should be taken up early in the course as a preparation to the study of the chemistry of petroleum proper. Methods of distillation and refining along with manufacturing processes should be taught, investigated and discussed. This course is to consist of lectures, recitations, laboratory exercises and prearranged visits to the leading refineries.

Lecture courses in oil field economics, petroleum insurance and legislation should also be included in the curriculum.

II. *The Library and Statistics Department.*

This department is to consist of two sections. The library proper and the section of statistics. The library must, of course, be modern and completely stocked with all the books that have been published dealing with any of the phases of the petroleum industry, its economics and its legislation since its discovery, duly arranged and catalogued. It must also contain all pamphlets and bulletins on the subject ever published by the United States Bureau of Mines and the United States Geological Survey, and all foreign official publications that have and are appearing. An equipment of all foreign and national magazines dealing with petroleum or its applications is also of the utmost importance.

The Statistics section would contain all data, as far back as possible, referring to the geographical distribution, geology, production, storage, transportation, refining and product-manufacturing of petroleum throughout the world. These data could be obtained:

(a) From the official annual reports rendered by the governments of the producing countries.

(b) From the official reports rendered by the producing companies.

(c) From private sources worthy of credit.

Diagrammatic representations of geological distribution—well records, production, accidents, failures, refining, quantity and quality of products, exports, etc., should be arranged by localities, States and countries. Comparative diagrams of annual and monthly prices per barrel, metric ton, cubic meter, pood, koku, etc., should be compiled.

All possible data concerning producing companies, pipe line and marine transportation syndicates, distilling and refining concerns should be gathered and duly indexed in the files of the section. In a word, the statistics of the petroleum industry of the world should be compiled and catalogued, with the view of making all and any information on the subject available at short notice.

The Department of Library and Statistics should edit a monthly publication, entitled the *International Petroleum Institute Magazine*. This magazine could be divided into five parts: Editorials, Technology, Official Section, Statistics and Bibliography.

The editorials to be written by experts, on topics of world-wide interest to the industry.

In Technology would be included all reports and scientific articles dealing in any of the phases of the world's petroleum industry, whether in geology, mining or chemistry.

The Official Section would contain any laws, regulations or dispositions enacted by governments of the producing countries that affect, directly or indirectly, the petroleum industry.

Statistics would give all official figures, tables and diagrams referring to production, storage, transportation, refining, cost, etc., throughout the world.

Bibliography would contain a condensed enumeration of all books, bulletins, pamphlets, scientific articles, etc., published during the preceding month.

III. *Technological Museum.*

The Museum, containing collections, small-sized models and illustrative diagrams of all natures, would be divided into five sections:

(a) Geology.
(b) Mining and production.
(c) Storage and transportation.
(d) Distilling, refining and product-manufacturing.
(e) Application and uses.

Section (a) could contain geographically arranged:

1. Maps and tables of the geographical distribution of petroleum deposits throughout the world.
2. Drawings, diagrams and tables of the geological eras, systems, series and producing formations.
3. Large-sized illustrations of anticlines, synclines, monoclines, combinations of these, domes and faulted forms of any and all of these.
4. A collection of bituminous minerals of the world.
5. A collection of the oil-sands that form the subterranean deposits.
6. A collection of impervious rocks and shales that serve as confining agents.
7. A collection of volcanic rocks and strata that influence the subterranean and superficial accumulation and distribution of petroleum.
8. Superficial rocks, signs and indications existing in oil fields.
9. A collection of fossils to be found in rocks and strata that have to be drilled to find petroleum.
10. Products ordinarily found with petroleum, gas, salt water, concretions, sands, etc.
11. Illustrative diagrams, sections, plans and schemes concerning the internal and external structure of the strata, rocks, shales, etc., mentioned before, along with the necessary explanatory details about their arrangement, position, tectonic accidents, etc.
12. Well records of different localities and countries, so disposed as to be easily understood by the geologist, the driller and the general public, including the common and geological name of the strata shown.

Section (b) would be made up of—

1. Small-sized models of camps.
2. Models of standard and rotary drilling outfits, with all their machinery and accessories and their applicability.
3. A collection of fishing tools and of plates and drawings describing the common accidents and the employment of these tools.
4. Torpedoes and plates illustrating their use.
5. Plans, diagrams and illustrations of the relative efficiency of each outfit, its machinery and accessories.
6. Tables illustrating the cost of transporting, erecting and upkeep of drilling outfits, camps and their dependences.
7. Tables showing rate and cost of drilling per foot and meter in different localities and through diverse strata.
8. Numerous large-sized plates and illustrations showing fire and accident prevention and the steps and measures to be taken when they occur.

Section (c) would consist of illustrations, tables, diagrams and small-sized models of the following:

1. Earth excavations used as provisional deposits.
2. Concrete deposits and tanks, methods of construction and cost.
3. Steel tanks, their erection and cost.
4. Tank wagons, their construction, equipment and maintenance. Cost of transportation per ton-kilometer, barrel-mile, pood-verst, etc.
5. Barges and tank steamers, their construction, equipment, maintenance and cost. Cost of loading, transporting and unloading per unit of measure of oil.
6. Pipe-line laying and operating, including water mains and telegraph, telephone and light lines.
7. Pumping stations, their design, location, building, maintenance, and cost. Diagrams and tables illustrating horsepower, rate of pumping, cost per unit of volume pumped, etc.
8. Modern fire extinguishers, different systems and apparatii. Their installation and operation.

Section (d) would contain illustrative plates and small-sized models of the following:

1. Distillation, different methods and their applicability.
2. Stills, different types and their manipulation, condensers, agitators and dephegmators.
3. Complete distilling plants, their design, location, construction, up-keep and cost.
4. Refining, diverse methods, their suitability, efficiency and cost.
5. Complete refining plants, their erection, maintenance and cost.
6. Refining in United States, Russia, Canada, Mexico, Rumania, etc.
7. A classified exhibition of all commercial products derived from petroleum. with their monographs.

Section (e) should contain complete collections of petroleum and its products, with their monographs, along with tables, illustrations and models of means and apparatii employed in their utilization.

1. In pharmacy.
2. In illumination.
3. As fuel.
4. As lubricant.
5. In ore concentration.
6. In water-proofing.
7. In glazing.
8. In laundry work.
9. In perfumery.
10. In electric insulation.
11. In photometry.
12. In paving and roofing.

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13. In dyeing.
14. In solid and soluble preparations.
15. In dry-cleaning.
16. As paint solvent.
17. In purifying alcohol.

Number (1) should contain a complete exhibition of all early and recent known applications of petroleum products in pharmacy, with their monographs.

In number (2) there should exist not only all the petroleum products used as illuminants, but also the early and modern forms of lamps, globes, wicks, safety appliances and extinguishers, together with tables and diagrams showing illuminating power versus oil consumption cost of lighting as compared with gas and electric lighting. Plates illustrating lamp accidents and explosions, mode of prevention, and first-aid assistance should also be included.

Number (3) should contain a well-equipped exposition of the many varied products of petroleum used as fuel, with their technology. Complete collections of the different types of steam, steam-and-air, air and mechanical burners for land, marine and locomotive use, along with their respective furnaces and the methods of storing, filtering, heating and feeding the fuel. Tables and diagrams illustrating the economy, durability, efficiency and cost of each.

Coal versus oil fuel, the advantages of the last in all applications.

Internal combustion engines, including stationary, marine, road and agricultural vehicles and aerial engines. Their construction, durability, thermal and mechanical efficiency and initial and maintenance cost.

Diagrams and comparative tables showing the increasing production and applicability of oil fuel in the world's industries.

Number (4) should include—

Complete collections of all known lubricants derived from petroleum, their preparation, properties, efficiency and cost.

Methods of examination of the physical and chemical properties of lubricants.

Mechanical testing of lubricants, showing all modern cylinder or drum and disc and collar machines.

A thorough equipment of appliances for lubrication, as needle, siphon, drop-feed, automatic and mechanical drop-feed and pressure lubricators; grease cups and pad, pump and splash lubricators.

Methods of selecting and testing lubricants for adulterants and impurities, and directions for the lubrication of miscellaneous machines.

Similarly, numbers (5), (6), (7), up to (17), should exhibit complete collections of the petroleum products employed in those industries, showing their preparation, properties, efficiency and cost.

IV. *Petroleum Association.*

CONSTITUTION OF THE PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

Article I—*Name*

Section 1. The name of this Association is the Petroleum Association of the International Petroleum Institute.

Sec. 2. The headquarters of this Association shall be at the International Petroleum Institute, Washington, D. C.

Article II—*Objects*

Section 1. The objects of this Petroleum Association shall be to advance and expand the interests of the petroleum industry throughout the world and to promote the better acquaintance and fellowship of all those engaged in this industry.

In working towards these ends, it shall endeavor to establish closer relations and cooperation between the different branches of the petroleum industry and the men engaged in them.

Sec. 2. Among the means which shall be employed by the Association for these purposes there shall be at least one regular meeting each year, and other meetings of the Association and various committees to be called by the President when necessary; the formation of such standing committees as are necessary to serve the interests of the Association; the keeping of the records and addresses of the members; the holding of international petroleum conferences and meetings; the monthly publication of a bulletin, and the establishment of branches of the Association at points where the number of those engaged in the petroleum industry would make such action advisable.

Article III—*Membership*

Section 1. Membership shall be open to any person holding a degree and engaged in the petroleum industry.

Sec. 2. The members of this Association shall be designated as resident members, non-resident members, and honorary members.

Sec. 3. Resident members shall be those who have their residence or place of business within the United States.

Interior Court of the College of La Paz, Mexico City

Non-resident members shall be those whose residence or place of business is outside of the United States.

Honorary members shall be chosen only from persons of acknowledged eminence in some branch of the petroleum industry. They shall not be required to have a degree.

Article IV—*Election of Members*

Section 1. The nomination of candidates for membership shall be made in writing to the Executive Committee by any active member of the Association. The name shall then be voted upon at the next meeting of the committee. A majority of votes shall elect to membership. Members-elect shall be notified by the secretary. On payment of the initiation fee and subscribing to the constitution, they shall become members. Forms for the purpose of subscribing to the constitution shall be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Sec. 2. Honorary members shall be proposed to the Executive Committee by at least ten members, and shall be elected by a four-fifths vote of the Executive Committee. The person elected an honorary member shall be promptly notified thereof by letter and he shall become such by subscribing to the constitution.

Sec. 3. Any member may be expelled by a majority vote of the Executive Committee after having been granted a full and fair hearing before a quorum of such committee.

Article V—*Initiation Fee*

The initiation fee shall be $10.00, to be paid within thirty days after date of notification of election.

Article VI—*Annual Dues*

Section 1. The fiscal year shall begin on the first of January.

Sec. 2. The annual dues shall be as follows: For all members living within the United States the dues shall be $5.00.

Sec. 3. Non-resident members outside of United States: For all members living outside the United States, dues shall be $2.00.

Sec. 4. The Executive Committee shall have authority to fix the amount of the initiation fee and annual dues.

Sec. 5. Persons joining the Association after six months of any fiscal year shall have expired, shall pay only one-half the dues for that year.

Sec. 6. Annual dues may be commuted for life by a single payment of $50.00, but the amounts received from life payments shall not be used for current expenses, but shall be carried in a separate fund only the interest of which shall be available for the general expenses of the Association. The Executive Committee shall have the power to fix at any time a maximum limit to the number of life members, and this number, if so fixed, shall not be exceeded. Persons compounding their dues shall sign an agreement to abide by the constitution of the Association as now formed or hereafter amended, and in case of their ceasing to be connected with the Association for any reasons, the amount paid by them for compounding annual dues shall become the property of the Association.

Sec. 7. Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of initiation fee or dues.

Sec. 8. Any person whose dues are more than three months in arrears shall be notified by the Treasurer, and if such dues shall become six months in arrears, he shall forfeit his connection with the Association. He may be reinstated by a four-fifths vote of the Executive Committee upon payment of all back dues.

Sec. 9. Any person resigning from the Association shall pay his dues up to and for the year in which his resignation takes place.

Article VII—*Officers*

Section 1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, Secretary and Treasurer. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be combined.

To be eligible for the office of President, the member shall be at the time of his nomination a prominent individual in the petroleum industry or legislation.

Sec. 2. The term of office of the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be one year, and they shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the Association, the date of which shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, and shall hold office until their successors have qualified.

Sec. 3. The nomination and election of officers shall be conducted as follows:

The Executive Committee shall, two months prior to each annual meeting after the first, appoint a Nominating Committee of ten members not officers of the Association or members of the Executive Committee, who hold office for one year. The Nominating Committee shall meet at least six weeks prior to the date of the annual meeting and shall select a chairman and secretary to serve for the term of office of the committee. Six members of the Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to prepare a list of nominees for the offices to be filled at the next annual meeting and to submit this list to the Executive Committee at least three weeks before the date of the annual meeting. The Nominating Committee, in selecting men for offices to be filled, shall conform to the requirements of Article VII, Section 1, and Article IX, Section 1. The Executive Committee, in sending out notices of the annual meeting, shall include with such notices a list of the nominees as prepared by the Nominating Committee. The election shall be held at the annual meeting, and printed or written ballots shall be distributed to the members present containing the names of the nominees selected by the Nominating Committee. The ballots shall contain a blank space under each name for the use of the voter if he wishes to substitute another name. Any member of the Association present at the annual meeting may cross out the name of any nominee on the ballot for whom he does not wish to vote and substitute therefor, by writing on the blank space, the name of any person eligible for the office. The person receiving the largest number of votes for each office to be filled by election.

Article VIII—*Duties of Officers*

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee, and he shall have power to call special meetings of the Association and the Executive Committee. He shall be an *ex-officio* member of all committees and perform such other duties as pertain to the office of President.

Sec. 2. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assume the duties of the President in case of his absence or disability.

Sec. 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the minutes of all meetings of the Association and of the Executive Committee and notify all members of regular and special meetings of the Association at least one week in advance of such meeting. He shall conduct the correspondence, keep the records of the Association, and keep a record of the names and addresses of all members of the Association. He shall give notice of meetings of, the Executive Committee and shall perform such other duties as the Executive Committee may assign him.

Sec. 4. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect the dues and keep an accurate account of the financial transactions of the Association. He shall deposit all moneys in such bank or other depository as may be designated by the Executive Committee. He shall make disbursements when authorized by the Executive Committee, by check signed by him as Treasurer. At the annual meeting or whenever required by the Executive Committee he shall make complete report on the finances of the Association, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Committee.

Article IX—*Executive Committee*

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Association, together with the three latest living Past Presidents and twenty other members. At the second annual meeting of the Association, ten members shall be elected for a term of two years and four members for a term of one year, and at each annual meeting thereafter ten members shall be elected for a term of two years. At least one-half of the members of the Executive Committee nominated at any one time shall be at the date of their nomination eligible for the office of President, as prescribed in Article VII, Section 1. No person shall be eligible as a member of the Executive Committee unless at the date of his nomination he shall have been engaged five years in the petroleum industry.

Sec. 2. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Association and shall present an annual report. It shall conduct the affairs of the Association in accordance with the provisions of this constitution. It shall direct the expenditure of the funds of the Association; it shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer; it shall make appropriations for recommendations to membership; and shall take all necessary measures to advance the interests of the Association in general.

Article X—*Meetings*

Section 1. At least one regular meeting shall be held each year, and shall be known as the annual meeting, and shall be held on the date fixed by the Executive Committee.

(*Concluded on page 47*)

Mexico City, the Beautiful

No Spot in the World Possesses Superior Attractions of the Most Varied Character

NOT a few discriminating travelers who have visited all portions of the civilized world and have seen the principal centers of population of both hemispheres, agree that in many respects the City of Mexico is the most interesting and picturesque place they have ever seen. The oldest city of the New World, founded upon and surrounded by the buried or partially uncovered ruins of a series of prehistoric civilizations, there is, so it is agreed, no other place in the world possessing such interest to the archaeologist, the ethmologist and the delver into the imperishable remains of a remote antiquity.

So, too, with the location. The traveler who approaches the city from the nearest coast over that road of a thousand unsurpassed views of ocean, of valley, hill, mountain, rugged canyon, dashing torrents and seemingly impassable gorges—through scenery the result of Nature's wildest and most freakish efforts; past peaceful but picturesque fields, cultivated after the most approved pre-biblical times on the one hand, and by the most modern machinery on the other, interspersed with towns whose smoke-pouring stacks attest the hum of varied industry at their base; who passes in a few all too brief hours from the level of the sea to the hoary old city of the True Cross, up and up and ever upward, until he is over a mile and a half nearer heaven than when he left its anthesis (in summer time) in the early morning, comes with the setting sun into a scene without parallel. He comes into the great mountain-encircled valley, the successor to the ancient Aztec capital like a gem in its midst, surrounded by vast plains of emerald green, waters flashing like silver hither and yonder, tree-clad hills here, barren volcanic cones there, and above all, in perpetual snow-clad grandeur, the coldly glistening summits of the two sleeping volcanoes, Ixtaccihuatl and Popocatapetl, keeping their eternal vigil over the graves of many a long buried and forgotten race as well as over the homes of a modern, cosmopolitan people.

Away out there in the valley the white and the gray, the varicolored and brilliant hued walls and roofs, the towering church domes by the score, the varied architecture of four centuries of change and growth, afford a skyline that is incomparable. There is nothing like it elsewhere in the world, and the patriotic Mexican who makes this claim merely from motives of patriotism finds himself supported by the most experienced travelers.

Mexico City is absolutely and unqualifiedly unique among all the cities of the world.

The route from Vera Cruz is far preferable to the approach from any other direction, for one reason because it is only a comparatively brief journey and one does not have time to become wearied. From the Rio Grande, however, practically two days are required for the trip, which is for the most part through a region which can only by a severe stretch of the imagination be called attractive, although it is true that there are many points affording scenery as well as experiences which are of great interest to the traveler entering Mexico for the first time. Great stretches of desert, covered in large part with cactus, gaunt limbed palmas and scrubby brush, lie between the fertile valleys which have been reclaimed by the use of water, and at Monterrey, at Saltillo, at San Luís Potosí and other places, are found centers of industry and wealth as well as cultivated areas of great extent and marvelous productiveness. South of the last-named place the country changes in character, the desert is left behind, and for many miles, indeed, nearly the entire distance to Mexico City one passes through a rich agricultural region—the granary of the Republic. At Querétaro, if he should care to halt, the visitor will find one of the ancient centers to which the passage of years and the influx of foreigners and their ideas have brought but little change. A few days' visit in this city will afford many sights and experiences well worth encountering.

The traveler from the north disembarks in Mexico City from his train, tired and dusty, but is at once charmed by the scene that confronts him. The railroad station stands a short distance back from that noted and most notable thoroughfare, whose beauties are known all over the world, the Paseo de la Reforma.

Overhanging trees and a beautiful grassy flower-decked parklet act as a sort of natural drop curtain for the scene in the background. A moment's ride—always it should be in an open vehicle—carries the traveler through and under the curtain and out into the magnificent thoroughfare, Mexico's pride, the "Paseo." No parsimonious hand held the instrument, no nig-

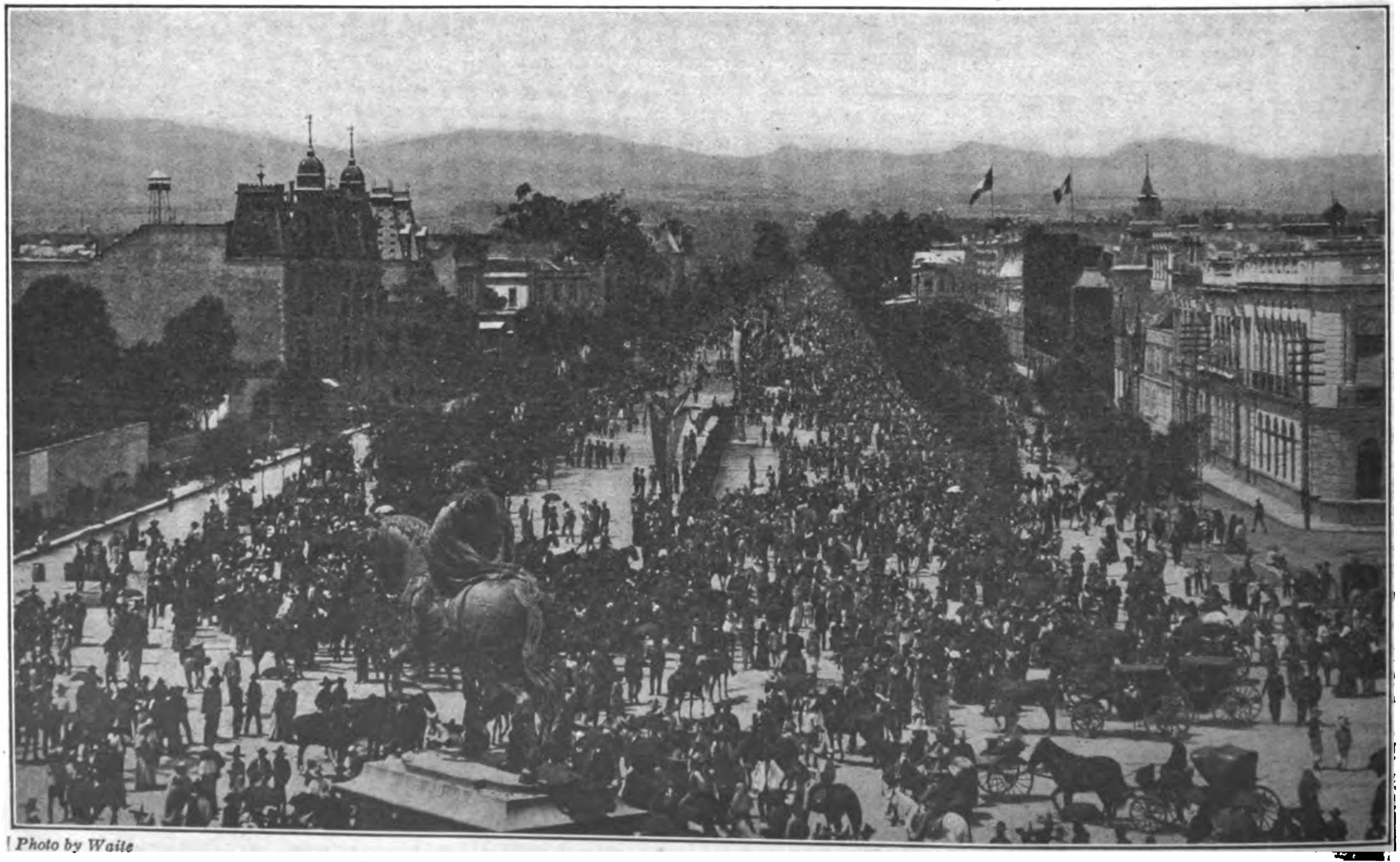
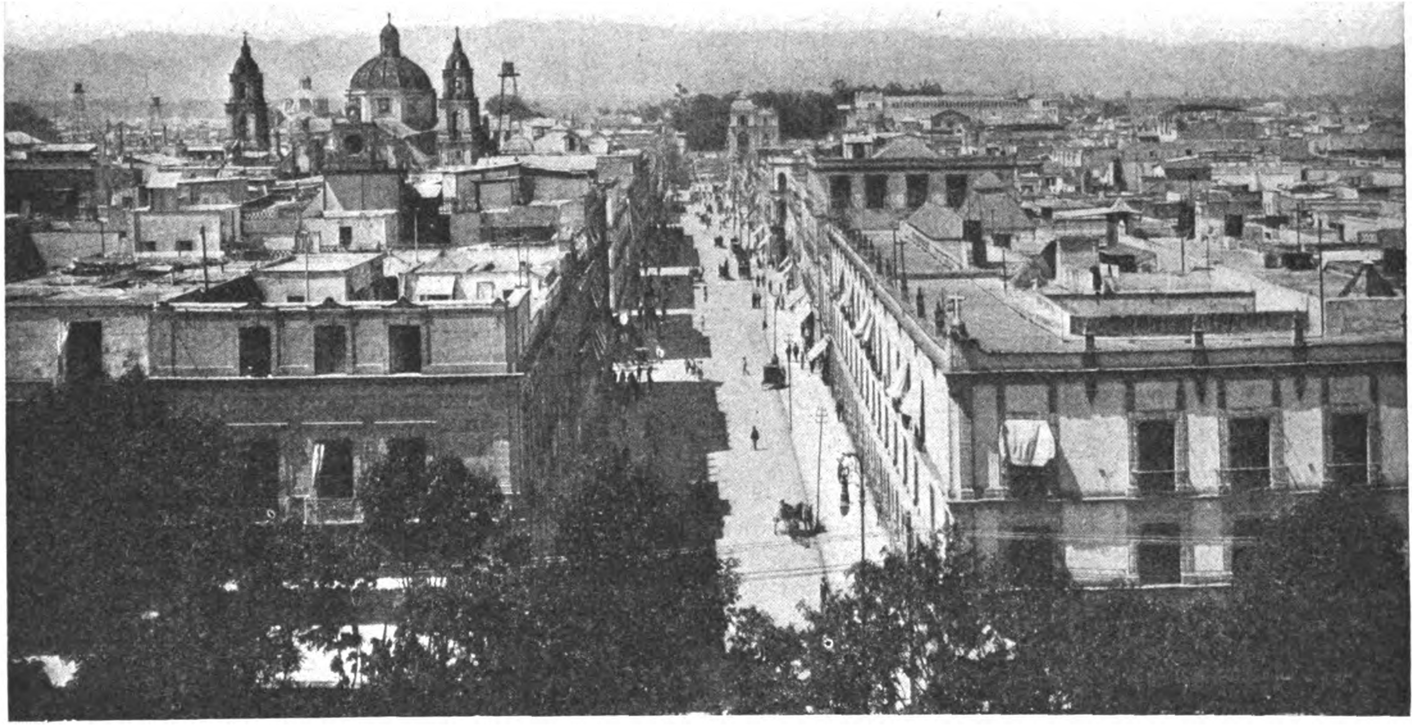


Photo by Waite

Looking Down Mexico City's Famous Paseo De La Reforma



View of a Section of the Fifth of May Avenue, or Avenida Cinco de Mayo

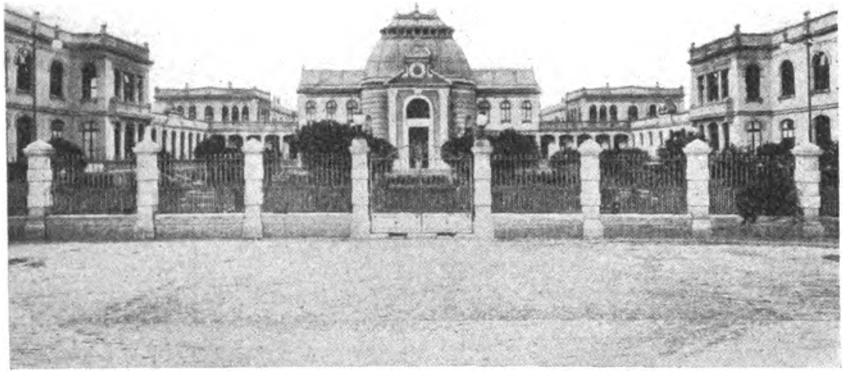
gardly authority gave the instructions when this unequaled drive and promenade were laid out. There was no idea that land was "too valuable" (there never was in Mexico) to be devoted to such uses, except so far as absolutely necessary to provide scant accommodation for purposes of mere locomotion of human beings and vehicles. With an eye solely to beauty, symmetry and attractiveness, enough space was allotted to allow of generous double driveways, ample double promenades, parallel rows on rows of shade trees, spacious lawns and flower gardens, shrubbery, and comfortable seats for all. Here are smoothly rounded "islands" around which the avenue sweeps in broad curves, bearing on their slopes a wilderness, a wealth and a variety of bloom peculiar to this city alone, and in their center towering monuments to the old Aztec chiefs and to Mexican patriots. In the distance the white shaft of the Independence Monument, massive yet graceful to a degree, towers into the sky, with its artistic historical and symbolical groups of statuary clustered around the base, and the golden Winged Victory crowning it all, glittering and glowing against the deep blue sky as does no other monument in the world. In the far distance the white walls of Chapultepec, fraught with historic memories, rise above the hoary ancient cypress trees, beloved by Montezuma and by every other ruler the country has ever seen, while away on the distant horizon are gently rolling hills, their slopes alternating between heavy forest growth and cultivated grain fields, and dotted with the villages of the aboriginal tribes. In every direction on both sides of the avenue and along the converging streets are the homes of the wealthy and of the middle class, the striking and pleasing feature of these being the great variety of achitecture as well as of material, and the utter absence of that deadly uniformity which is so unpleasing in many cities which arrogate to themselves superior attractiveness. Indeed, this is the salient feature of all the newer portion of the Metropolis—and that is about half the area covered. One never tires walking or driving around the city, as every corner and every curve brings some interesting view.

But the journey to the hotel obliges the traveler to turn his face in the opposite direction and to leave the beauties of the Paseo and of the Chapultepec park for a future occasion. In this direction, too, which is toward the heart of the older portion of the city, the view is most striking. There are the same broad thoroughfares, the same double drives and promenades, the same heavy and attractive growth of shade trees, the same lawns and flower gardens, the same handsome mansions of the most varied architecture, the same beautiful vistas, only of a different character, for now it is the ancient city and not the surrounding rural section that is encountered. At the head of the avenue stands that most famous and historical equestrian state of King Charles Fourth, miscalled the "Iron Horse," though in reality it is made of bronze. Towering into the air a short distance to one side is the skeleton steel framework of what is to be the National Hall of Congress what time it is completed, the clear cut outline against the deep blue of the sky showing that it will be a fit and appropriate structure for its purpose.

Passing the "Iron Horse," the traveler's car swings at an angle to the right into the Avenida Juarez, and here another vista of beauty is opened to his entranced vision. Like the Paseo, this avenue, too, is broad and commodious. Here, too, there was not skimping of space in its construction. It is well and smoothly paved and the vehicle of whatever nature rolls along without a jar. On one hand is the thick, almost forest-like growth of the Alameda, Mexico's historic breathing and pleasure spot. Through the thickly clustered trees one catches glimpses of fountains of the most novel design, throwing their spray high in the air in graceful curves, of flower gardens such as one only sees in this country, of shady walks and comfortable seats, of hundreds of people enjoying the rural scenery and atmosphere in their urban setting, and listening to the sweet music discoursed daily by bands which have few if any superior, for the Mexicans, even of the lowest classes, are nothing if not musical.

Midway of the Alameda, the handsome and appropriate memorial to the great liberator and patriot, Benito Juarez, is passed. This is a semi-circular colonnade of massive white marble pillars, forming an appropriate setting for a heroic statue of the full-blooded Indian who gave his country the famous Laws of Reform and devoted his life to the cause of freedom. It is a work of art of the very highest type, the handiwork of a Mexican sculptor who put his heart and soul into a lasting memorial of the man to whom all true Mexicans look with reverence and pride, and as a work of art has received the highest praise from those who have had opportunity to compare it with the most notable examples of sculpture in the entire world.

The vista from Avenida Juarez extends directly in a straight line to the National Pal-



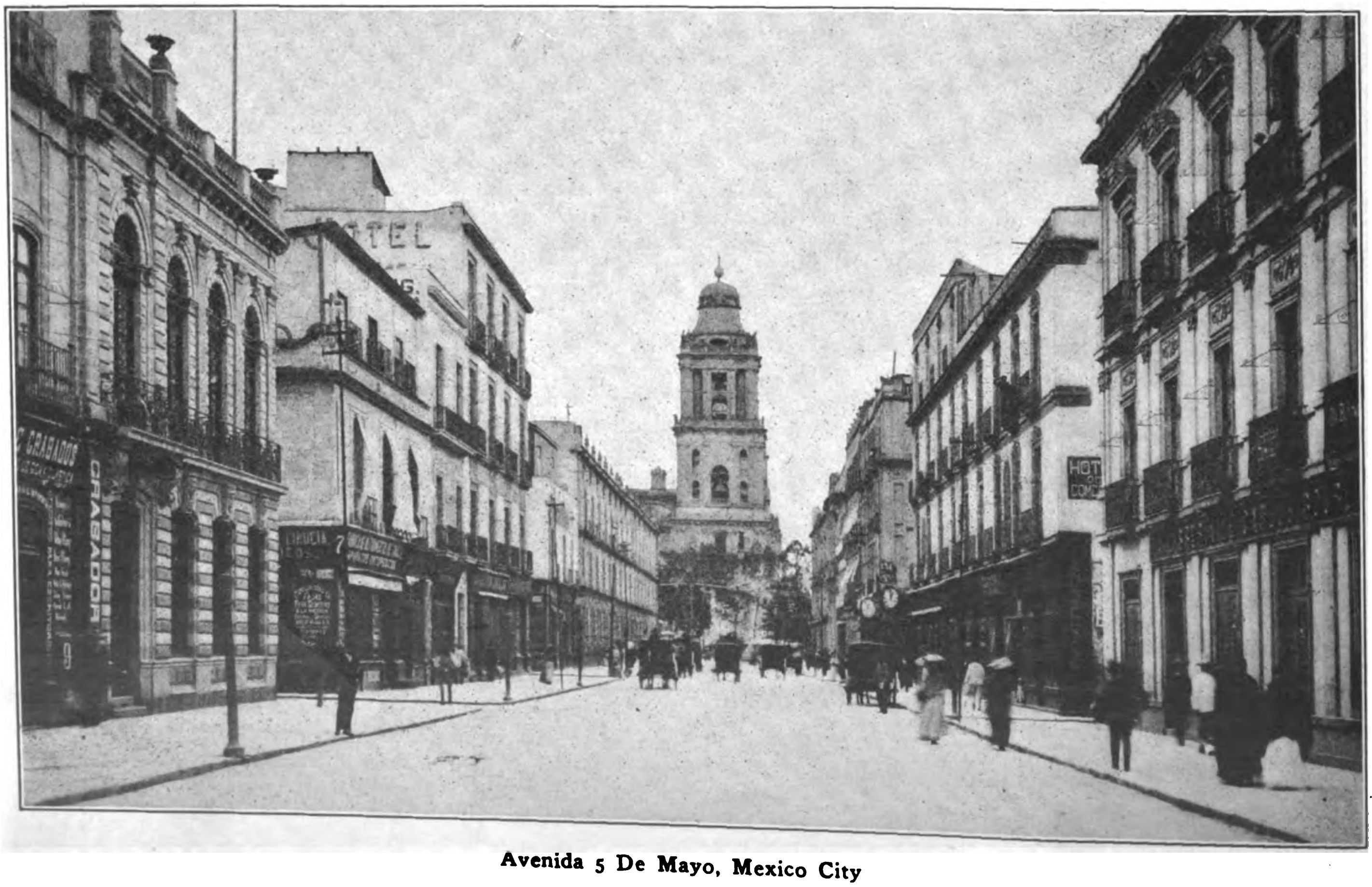
View of the General Hospital, Mexico City

ace, more than a mile distant, although the name of the thoroughfare is changed about half way at a prominent cross street from Avenida Juarez to Avenida Francisco I. Madero, in memory of the martyred President, this thoroughfare having in former times been known as the Avenue San Francisco, the most notable of all the city's streets. The partially completed National Theater, built of white marble and which when completed will be the largest and most magnificent Temple of Thespis on the globe, is passed *en route,* and the visitor then enters the choicest retail district of the city, passing shops of all kinds whose window displays are of the most artistic and attractive character, and afford one of the "sights" of the city. Emerging from this avenue at its commencement in the historic Zocalo, the visitor comes suddenly upon the most interesting spot, from a purely historical standpoint, in the entire city.

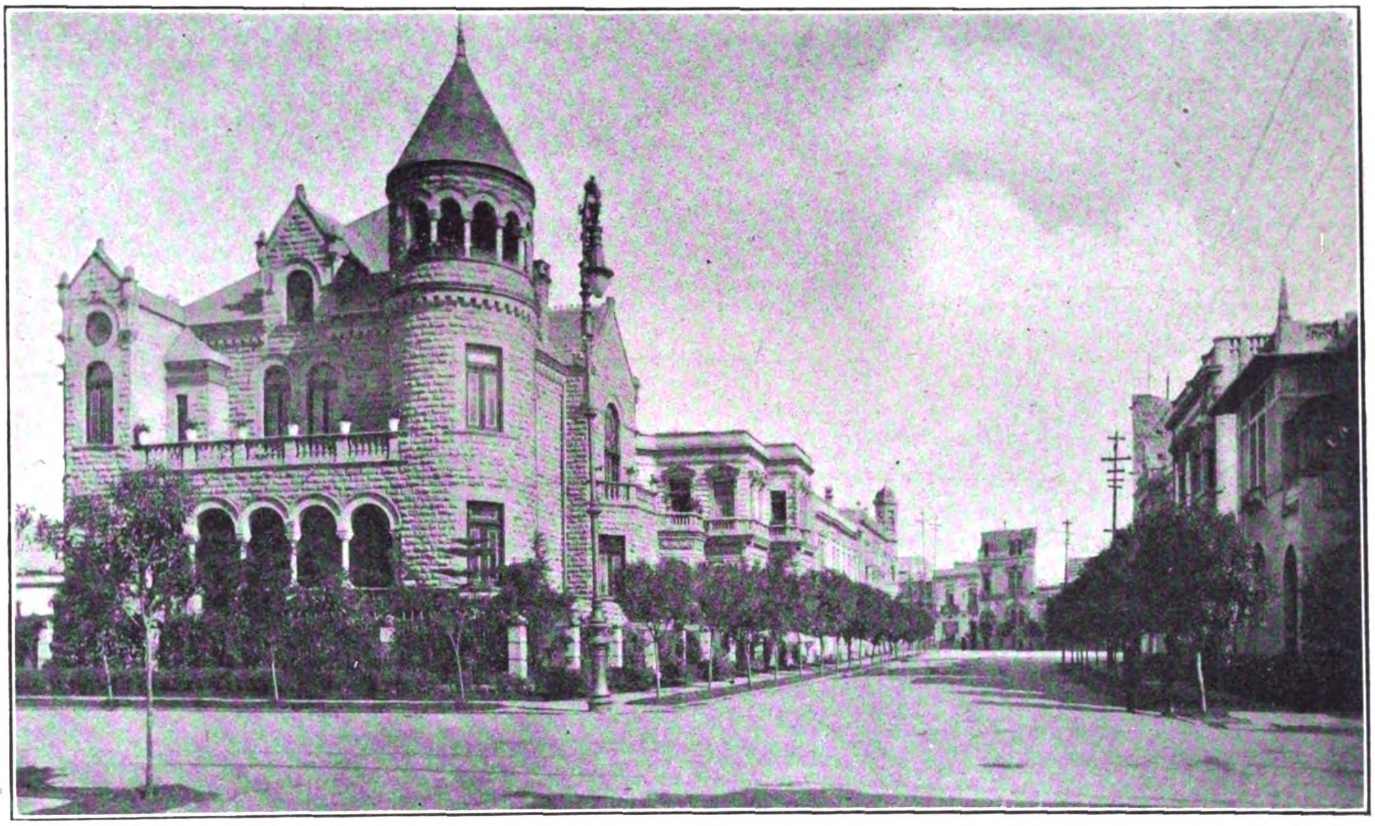
This is the extensive square around which, when Cortez and his ruthless conquerors first came, were grouped the great Temples and Palaces of the Aztec nation. Here was the Teocalli, or temple, to the War God, on whose summit hundreds of thousands of human beings were said to have been slaughtered as offerings. Here was the palace of Montezuma, and here was the scene of the first battles which finally ended in the temporary expulsion of the invaders. Here was the commencement of the causeway across the lake which once surrounded the island city, now called Tacuba Street for a portion of its extent, farther along named the "Street of Illustrious Men," and still farther toward the outskirts the "Street of the Bridge of Alvarado," in memory of the daring feat of that warrior on the doleful "Noche Triste"—the occasion of the disastrous flight of the Spanish invaders after their first entry into the city.

After the return of Cortez with reinforcements and the final defeat of the Aztecs, all these great buildings with their historical records were ruthlessly destroyed and leveled to the ground. This was done in the name of religion! It was demanded by the fanatics as the only method by which heathenism could be uprooted and so-called "Christianity" installed in its place. One of the places pointed out to the inquisitive traveler is the Plaza of San Diego, where the process of "Christianizing" these already highly civilized heathen was prosecuted by roasting many thousands of them alive as a warning to the onlookers that they must cease worshipping their blood-thirsty God of War with his human sacrifices, and instead thereof must transfer their religious affections to the God of Peace and Love in whose name these human burn offerings were made. Small wonder that the puzzled savage had great difficulty in discriminating between the heathen god that demanded sudden death by knife as a sacrifice and a Christian one that required slow torture by fire in the same cause.

Much of the material from which the great Aztec Temple and other buildings were constructed was utilized for the erection of new



Avenida 5 De Mayo, Mexico City



A Glimpse of Colonia Juarez, City of Mexico

structures, and the ancient sites of these great examples of prehistoric civilization are now occupied by the Cathedral, the National Palace, the Municipal Building and a few business edifices. These are built literally upon the ruins of the old temples, and nowhere in this portion of the city can any excavation be undertaken without bringing to light portions of the foundations and the pavements of the ancient structures, with objects of stone and metal priceless to the archaeologist. Many of the most interesting exhibits in the National Museum have been obtained in this manner. The iconoclasts of the conquest seemed to have been imbued with a desire to bury from sight every evidence of the past, to destroy every carving or painting that might give even a hint of the history of the wonderful races that preceded the Spaniards, and well they suceeded in carrying out their fanatical purposes.

Historically the Zocalo and the buildings clustered around it are, as stated, the most intensely interesting portion of the city. This locality is interesting, too, from the fact that all the forty-odd electric street car lines of the metropolis center here. And by the way, this transportation system is the equal of any in any city on either hemisphere. One can enter a car at this point, ride in many cases for hours at a comparatively trifling expense, and in due time find himself back again at the starting point and ready to take a trip over some other line in some other direction.

A very pleasant and at the same time economical method for acquiring a working knowledge of the geography of the city, as of any other city, for that matter, and one that the writer has found very satisfactory, is to devote a week or two—two is not too much in this instance—to trips over each of the car lines in succession. Some of the routes are comparatively limited in mileage, merely traversing the most thickly populated portions of the city, but others extend far out into the suburbs for distances of ten to twenty kilometers. The one that affords access to Xochimilco and Las Chinampas (the Floating Islands), for example, is the longest of the series, and incidentally one of those best worth traversing to its ultimate rail. It would require a separate article to properly deal with the wonderfully entrancing sights to be enjoyed at Xochimilco and its surroundings, both on land and water. There is nothing like it anywhere, in any country, and the traveler, experienced though he may be, finds himself bewildered with the novelty and charm of the land and water scapes, the wealth of bloom and vegetation on every hand, the quaint courtesy of the white-clad Indians, the ever shifting panorama, so that it is difficult, indeed, for him to realize that he is within but a short distance of a bustling modern city of over half a million people.

Other enjoyable electric car trips are to San Angel, to Guadalupe, the religious center of

(*Concluded on page* 47)

Headquarters of the Police Department of Mexico City

Labor Legislation in Mexico

Advanced Position Taken by that Country Since the Revolution—Importance of International Organization

BY YGNACIO BONILLAS, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO

THE present Constitutional Government of Mexico, emanated from the Revolution headed by Venustiano Carranza, incorporated in the new Constitution, promulgated on February 5th, 1917, the most advanced labor legislation in the world, along the lines adopted by New Zealand.

Article 123 of the new Constitution, relative to Labor and Social Welfare, is a beacon light in the history of labor legislation, and properly might be called the Declaration of Independence of the Mexican Laborer, a synopsis of which, published in the Latin-American Year Book, 1918, is herein given:

Labor Legislation

"The new Constitution provides that Congress and the Legislatures of the States shall regulate labor matters, provided all legislation adopted is along the following lines: A maximum day work of 8 hours in the day time, and 7 hours in night time. In unhealthy and dangerous occupations, also in night work and for children of 12 to 16 years, the working day must be 6 hours. Labor of children under 12 is forbidden. A day of rest for each six days is established. Liberal provisions are adopted in reference to the work of married women for the protection of their children. Minimum wages shall be fixed according to local conditions. Workmen will have the right to a part of the profits. Equal wages are established for both sexes and all nationalities. The minimum wage cannot be subject to discount or rebate. All wages are to be paid in legal money. Overtime shall be paid at double price, and under no circumstances more than 3 hours overtime is allowed. No overtime is permitted for women, or children under 16. Employers in agricultural, mining or any other enterprise are compelled to furnish healthy and comfortable lodgings for the workmen, and the rent charged them cannot exceed 6% a year of the assessed value of the building. Employers are also obliged to furnish schools, hospitals, markets, etc., when necessary, and are forbidden to open barrooms and glambling places for their workmen. They are liable for accidents and illness. The adoption, in shops and factories, of sanitary conditions and devises for the prevention of accidents, is compulsory. Both employee and employers have the right to associate for the defense of their interests. The law recognizes the right to strike and lockout. Strikes are forbidden when brought by acts of violence or in case of war, when affecting government services. Military establishments, however, are under military law. Lockouts are only recognized when necessary, because of an excess in the production. Boards of Conciliation and Arbitration are established for the settlement of all labor differences. Arbitration of labor difficulties is compulsory. Employers refusing to arbitrate are liable to pay their workmen three months' salary. Workmen refusing to arbitrate will, by their refusal, forfeit their rights as per their contracts. Debts for wages are preferent. Employees shall not be required to pay agents commission for obtaining position for them.

"No labor contract is valid if it provides for a longer working day than allowed, or if the wage is exceedingly low; if payments are not made at least every week; if payments are made in a pleasure resort so that workmen are liable to spend their wages immediately there. The workmen cannot be compelled, either directly or indirectly, to buy from certain merchants. Wages cannot be held under the pretext of fines. No contract is valid if the workmen forfeit therein their right to indemnity and compensation for accidents or damages.

Labor Conditions

"Before the present government was firmly established in Mexico, labor conditions were very unsettled, and in fact, caused by labor unrest bordering desperation.

"The new Government, therefore, as soon as the military situation was under control, undertook a radical reform in the labor system of the country, adopting as a base for its program, the most advanced principles governing labor in its relations with capital.

Labor conditions were very peculiar. There was a labor shortage all over the country. Wages, however, were small and the condi-

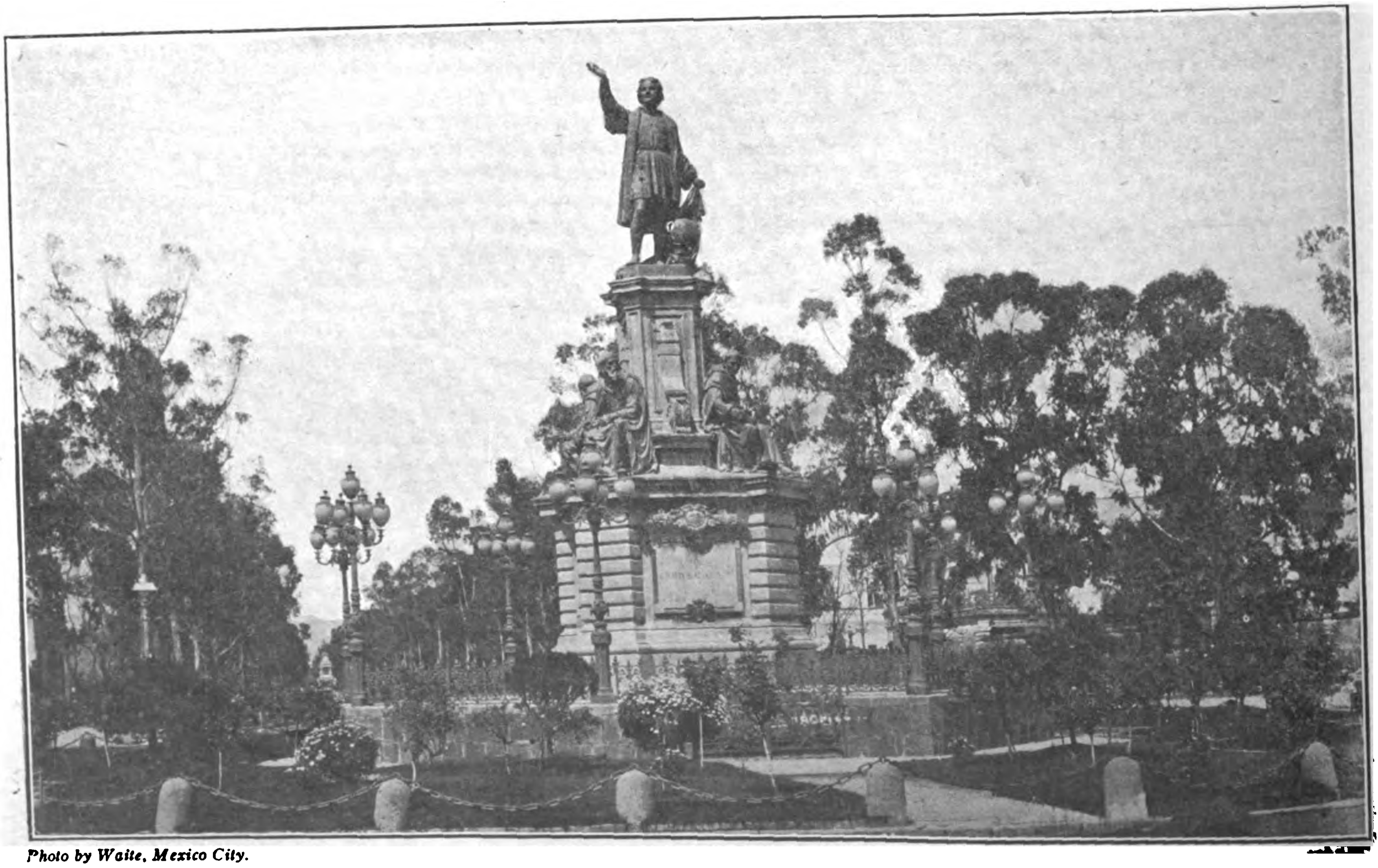


Photo by Waite, Mexico City.

Statute of Columbus Standing in One of the "Glorietas" of the Paseo de la Reforma

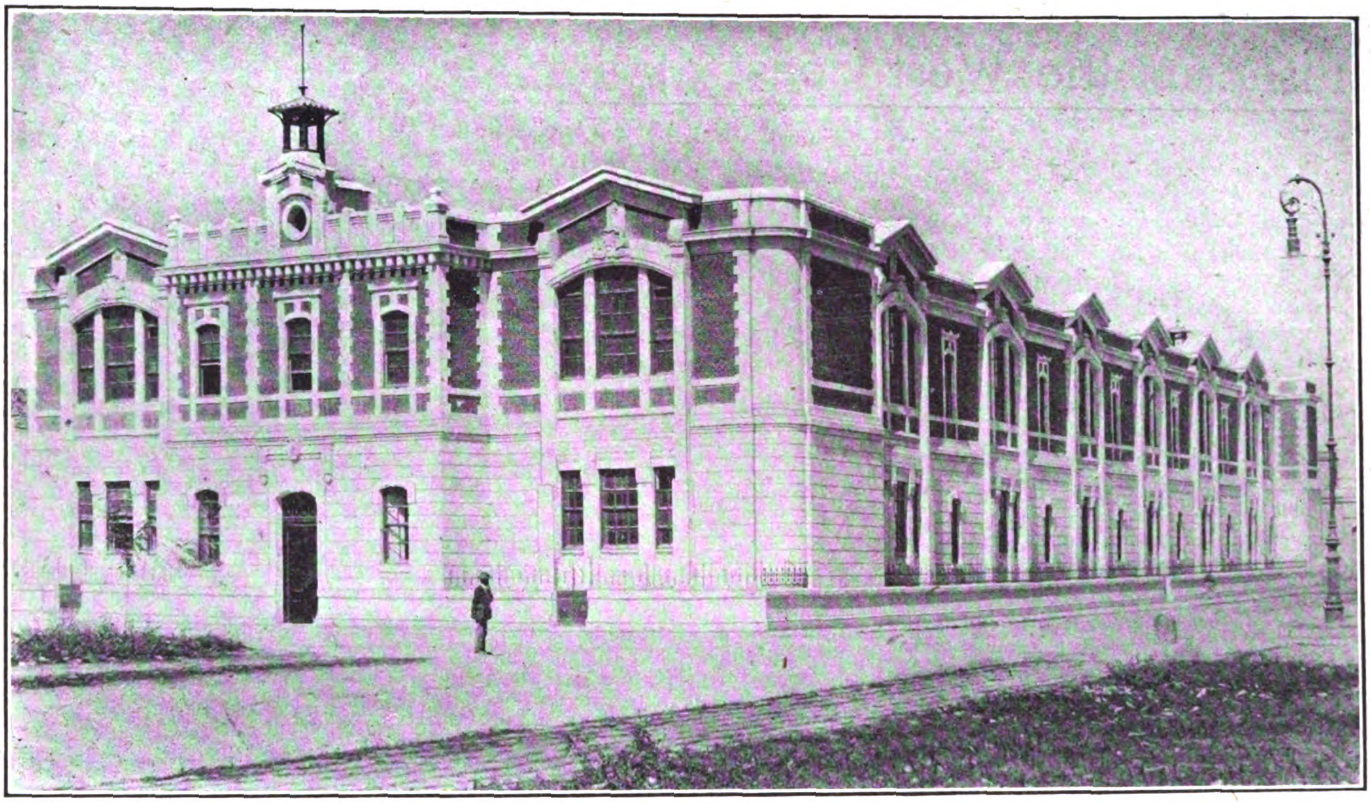


Photo by Waite.

One of Mexico City's New School Buildings

tions of the working people were decidedly bad. The relations between capital and labor in the industrial centers were strained to the breaking point. The industrial organization followed the system of the old European capitalism, made worse still, because it was imposed on a laboring class much weaker than in Europe, since it was unorganized and not very advanced in civilization.

"The new Government decided boldly to solve the troubles by a radical reorganization, in the belief that at the present time when industries were just beginning development, it would be much easier to undertake a complete change than later, when larger interests would have been created, which would become a serious obstacle in the way to reformation and improvement.

"As a positive proof of the interest taken by the laboring classes in Mexico may be cited the assembling of labor conventions throughout the Republic, in which the States of Sonora, Yucatan Coahuila, Vera Cruz and Puebla have taken the lead to initiate legislation and to promote national organizations and friendly relations of Pan-American character specially with national organizations of labor in the United States, where thousands of Mexican laborers are at work on the farms, with the railroads and other industrial enterprises.

"The contiguity of Mexico and the United States, the vast amount of American capital invested in Mexico and facilities of intercommunication have brought about an interchange of laboring elements, whose conditions have necessarily incited a deep interest among the labor organizations of both countries, as shown by the special commissions sent out to study and report upon the organization, purposes, ideals and achievements of the working people concerned.

"To the wage earners who constitute the vast majorities in both nations this intermingling process is of great mutual importance as the intercourse will lead to an intimate knowledge of their conditions and to concerted action as to the most practical solution of the problems affecting their collective rights and duties.

"The action of organized labor, properly directed, more than any other agency, should represent the genuine expression of the will of the majorities. To organize concerted labor action therefore, must we turn for assistance in the strengthening of relations which make for international comity, peace and fraternity.

"Neighbors we shall always be, consequently our bounden duty as such is to promote good feeling, just, kindly and neighborly relations."

The Chicle Industry

The chicle industry of Guatemala is confined almost exclusively to the Peten—that inaccessible north country of the Republic bordering on Mexico and British Honduras. Aside from

The country is reputed to be of dense tropical undergrowth, swampy, the climate very unhealthful, but a territory rich in undeveloped resources. Concessions for constructing a railway in the Peten have been sought from the Government, but none has yet been granted. The capital of the Department of Peten is Flores, situated on the picturesque island of Flores, and the jefe politico (governor) is Licenciado Don Clodoveo Berjes, from whom the major part of the information contained in this report was obtained.

It is estimated that the investment in the Peten country in the chicle industry aggregates about $250,000 United States gold. No one is permitted to gather chicle without a Government concession. Four concessions of this nature have been granted and they cover the most desirable chicle lands of the region. Good chicle land is said to be worth from $1500 to $2000 United States gold per caballeria of 33 1-3 acres, but nearly all the land is owned by the Government of Guatemala, the owners of concessions enjoying only the right to remove the chicle. Chicle grows wild, and steps have never been taken either to cultivate the tree or to provide for reforesting the land with chicle.

The chicle resources of the peten country are declared to be practically inexhaustible. It would appear from the statements of concessionaires that no formal estimate of the chicle in the Peten region has been made, and that, in many instances, holders of concessions do not know just what amount of chicle grows on their land. The tree, which bears a luscious brown fruit, is found chiefly at altitudes ranging 500 to 2000 feet. In some districts 25 to 50 trees are found per acre, while in other regions the trees are greatly scattered.

Chicle trees are boxed and cupped in a manner similar to the "boxing" of pine trees for the extraction of turpentine or resin. A large tree will yield as much as 100 pounds of the crude gum, and smaller and younger trees less in proportion. The trees are boxed an average of three times in as many years. The gum is boiled in large iron pots, from which it is poured into wooden boxes with a capacity of 80 pounds each. The gum hardens in these boxes, and it is carried in this form to the shipping seaport, where the boxes are removed and the chicle packed in sacks for export.

Fishes of the West Coast

An Interesting Study of the Teeming Life of the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California

MR. A. RUSSELL CROWELL, an authority on fish, particularly those in local waters, has prepared a report entitled "Commercial fishes on the Mexican west coast," writes Consul W. E. Chapman, Mazatlan, Sinaloa. The report sets forth many salient facts of value to those interested in fish products.

For some time prior to the late revolution in Mexico a fish cannery of fair importance operated to the south of Mazatlan, where several varieties of fish were preserved, and considerable oil and fertilizer realized from other varieties and the by-products.

Fish are so plentiful in these waters that it is a common sight to see men catching them with loose lines in the surf across the street 200 feet from the consulate windows, or to see sardines flipping out of the water by the hundreds in their efforts to escape the larger fish that prey upon them; sea birds gather at the scene of the disturbance, and in a few minutes each morning catch as many of the little fish as they want. Mr. Crowell's report follows, in part:

Over 100 species and subspecies of fish exist within a radius of 60 miles from the city of Mazatlan, exclusive of shellfish and crustaceans, though only about 40 of them are of any great commercial value and not over 20 can be shipped or canned in any large quantity. The most abundant is the mullet, locally known as lisa and in Hawaii as ama-ama. There are two varieties of the mullet, the striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*) and the white mullet (*Mugil curuma*), known here as bolaina. The striped variety grows to 27 inches in length 4½ inches across, the back 7 inches deep, and weighs 7 pounds, but fish of this size are rare. They vary greatly in color and the writer has seen them in one school with lemon-yellow, black, blue, and green backs, sides silvery. They enter the lagoons and esteros (inlets) from the sea in July and August, or as soon as the rains have swollen the rivers. They spawn in December and January and feed on a fine moss called lama, and consequently do not hook. They are caught in seines, traps, and with a native casting net called a tarraya, but they are difficult to catch in seines as they jump over the cork line. In Mexico the natives place canoes around the seine for the fish to jump into and in Hawaii the fishermen are very expert in catching them in hand nets as they jump over. They are excellent eating when fat, can well, and are very palatable either smoked or dried. They are unknown commercially in the western waters of the United States, except to a limited extent at San Diego, Cal., where schools of small white mullet are sometimes seen.

The white mullet of bolaina is even more abundant than the striped variety, but is a much inferior fish and rarely grows to over 16 inches in length. They spawn in April and May and again in September. The roe is delicious, greatly resembling shad roe. It is marketed here, salted, and dried.

Milkfish Abundant

The Sábalo or milkfish (*Chanos chanos*), known in Hawaii as the awa, is also very abundant, but, unlike the lisa, the runs are very erratic. Some years they are very numerous, others very scarce. Some seasons a 24-inch fish is a big one, and others 50 to 60-inch fish are common. They are a beautiful, extremely active, delicate fish. Some writers call them the Pacific shad, but this is a misnomer, as the lateral line is well defined. The natives eat them only when dried, and they are of excellent flavor but bony. Like the mullet, they are vegetarians and often run in the same school. They spawn in July and should prove a valuable fish for export, either smoked or dried.

The robalo (family of *Oxylabracidae*) is one of the most common fish on this coast and one of the most valuable. Four distinct specimens are known locally as: Robalo neto, robalo garivato, robalo peleto, and constantino. The robalo neto is the largest of the family, growing to 50 pounds weight, and is more heavily built and darker in color than the other varieties. The garivato is similar, but lighter in color and more slender. Both have white, firm flesh and when dried are very similar to codfish—in fact, when properly cured only an expert can distinguish them from codfish. When canned they are not very attractive, but either fresh or dried should prove a good seller in the United States. The peleto is a much smaller fish, not often exceeding 24 inches in length and with much softer meat. If cured in the Chinese method they are preferred by the Chinese and bring from 8 to 14 cents per pound wholesale in San Francisco (Cal.) market. The constantino is a delicious pan fish, not often over 14 inches long. They are very numerous in the esteros (creeks) south of Mazatlan. All of the family are voracious feeders, devouring all small fish, shrimp, sardines, etc. They do not run in schools like mackerel or herring, but are sufficiently numerous to catch, and it is not uncommon to get 100 or more at a cast of a small seine.

Five Varieties of Weakfish

The corbina ranks next to the robalo in commercial value. This fish is a branch of the family of croakers (*Sciaenidae* genus *cynoscion*, weakfishes). We have five species: Yellow corbina (*Cynoscion reticulatus*); Gulf of California white sea bass or totuava (*Cynoscion macdonaldi*); California bluefish, known locally as chalangandina (*Cynoscion parvipinnis*); white corbina or California sea trout; and the corbina prieta or gray corbina, not classified.

The entire family is very similar in appearance and habits; only a scientist can tell the difference in some species. They enter the creeks from the sea in July and August to spawn, and with the exception of the tortuava they run in immense schools. Two men in a canoe will often catch from 200 to 300 at a tide with hand lines and several thousand in a few casts of a small seine.

The tortuava grows to 172 pounds (the record catch), but the other varieties average two or three feet in length. The first runs are generally about 18-inch fish. They are rather light for frying in the American style, but are the favorite fish of the Chinese and bring about the same price in the San Francisco market as the robalo when cured by the native Chinese method.

Of the other members of the croaker family, the yellow-fin roncador or berrugate (*Umbrina sinaloae*) and the boca dulce (*Genuc bairdiella*) are very numerous. They are excellent pan fish and would be of great value in any market, fresh or iced, but are too small for drying. The kingfish or whiting (*Menticirrhus elongatus*), frequently called berrugate by the natives, run with the corbina. They are soft-meated and when dried are very thin.

Snapper, Sea Bass, and Spotted Jewfish

The pargos or snappers are nearly as numerous as the corbina, and not being as migratory can be secured almost any month in the year. The pargo colorado (*Lutianus colorado*) is well known in the United States as the red snapper, and on the east coast of Mexico as the guachinango. This is a very superior table fish and cans splendidly, the meat being white and firm. They can be found in the ocean all along the coast, but are more numerous in the esteros (creeks) in January and June. They are a fine game fish as well as a valuable fish commercially, taking the trolling spoon or live bait. The same description applies to the other species of the snappers found here of which there are six, five of which are known to science.

The gray snapper, pargo prieto (*Lutianus griscus*), is almost as common as the red variety and grows to 50 pounds weight. The yellow or rock snapper, the pargo flamenco or calandria (*Lutianus guttatus*) and the pargo raicero (*Lutianus aratus*) are smaller species, not often over a foot in length.

One of the most popular fish in the market is the varbrilla (*Paralbrax maculatofasciatus*) one of the sea basses. They range from Guaymas, Mexico, to the State of Nayarit, Mexico, being more plentiful about Guaymas than at Mazatlan. They grow to 32 inches and are fine flavored and very game. Another of the bass family of great commercial value is the mero or spotted jewfish (*Promicrops itaiara*), a golden-brown fish with black spots, and the older fish are of a solid gray. Unlike the jewfish of California they are excellent eating. The meat is white and firm though slightly flaky, and they are caught principally by the hook and line, also often in the seines when set for robalo or corbina. They can be found among the rocks, and enter the esteros to spawn in early summer. Their weight is up to 400 pounds and 150-pound fish are common.

(*Concluded on page 37*)

The Olive in Mexico

Soil and Climate Are Well Adapted to Its Cultivation Upon a Large Scale

AMONG the most ancient trees that are cultivated in Mexico, having been imported between 1760 and 1765, is the olive. There can still be seen some very notable specimens of this tree in many places, especially in the gardens and orchards of the convents, due to the fact that the missionaries were the first ones who introduced them.

Unfortunately the greater part of these trees have been abandoned without any good reason, because their cultivation and care is very simple and easy, and their production is abundant. In order to understand the importance of this fruit tree, we insert at the bottom some data taken from official bulletins from California, the climate and conditions of which state are similar to those of the larger part of the Republic, and the introduction there of this tree began about the same time as it did here.

The olive tree originates in Syria, and since many centuries ago it has been cultivated in countries along the shores of the Mediterranean, principally in Greece, Italy, France and Spain. From there it was brought to America by missionaries who knew the use and manufacture of oil. This industry was one of the first that were established in California, the members of the order of San Diego having planted in 1769 the first olive orchard from seeds brought over from Spain, and which, owing to the limited area of land that they had fenced in, only amounted to 517 trees. Afterwards, after seeing their splendid fruit production and their need of but very little care and attention, those same trees produced thousands of saplings and shoots that were used to form new orchards.

Large plantations were started in 1872, and the first one that was installed with modern machinery for the extraction of oil was near Santa Barbara. Now the number of olive orchards and mills that are exploited in California is many.

The official statistics for 1910 show 863,343 trees in a state of production, and 121,659 trees that are beginning to produce. During the last 8 years the plantations must have increased at least 40 per cent. The total crop for 1909 was 16,13[illegible],314 pounds of olives, valued at $401,277, and the crop for the last year was valued at more than $600,000 or $1,200,000 of our money.

The counties that are producing on a large scale are the following:

San Diego, Los Angeles, Riverside, Butte, El Dorado and Orange, each of which has more than 70,000 trees in a state of production.

In respect to the profit of the business, it is one of the best, more so since rigorous laws have been established for the purity of food products. The American Olive Oil Company, which possesses near Los Angeles the largest olive tree and which buys almost all the crops of the producers of Orange and Los Angeles counties, manufactured in 1913 more than a million and half gallons of oil, as well as 250,000 cases of conserved olives, each case having almost 6 gallons capacity.

Notwithstanding this great production in 1912, the market of the United States imported from Europe 4,836,515 gallons of oil of first class quality for table use, valued at $6,170,822; 5,076,857 gallons of conserved olives, valued at $2,303,277, and 636,013 gallons of oil of second class quality, intended for industrial uses, valued at $389,539.

With almost eight million dollars worth of imports, as well in oil as in olives, it shows that the American market, the nearest to us, will still be open during many years to come, by reason of which it is indispensable that we should produce on a large scale, as well in order to supply our own markets as to export, and above all, there being in our country soil that is superior for this kind of cultivation and of greater area than that of California.

The cultivation that is being carried on there is almost totally of varieties that produce large fruits, especially intended for conservation, and which obtain the best prices. These species are: Ascolano, Sevillana or Reina, Nevadilla, Manzanilla, Oblitza, Pendulina, Picholina and others that originate from France, Spain and Italy.

It is considered that trees in a state of production yield from 150 to 200 pounds, which can be converted into: One ton of mixed olives produces 35 to 40 gallons of oil, according to the machinery used for its extraction. Six to seven pounds of picked olives yield a gallon of conserved olives.

Generally, plantations that are 15 or 20 years old can yield some 3,000 pounds per acre, and the sale price varies according to the years and the quality; in 1912 it was from $45.00 to $50.00 per ton for mixed conserved olives, and those picked for conservation from $125 to $175 per ton, the following species obtaining the best prices—Sevillana, Ascolano, Picholina and Manzanilla.

It is of urgent necessity to save the few trees that we have remaining, and multiplying them as much as possible, and within a few years we will have olive orchards that will rival those of California.

The multiplication is made with seeds, sprigs, saplings, shoots and grafts, the last being the best way and the most adequate for the securing of production from the third year, and is the surest.

The planting is done in furrows, or in quincaux, each tree six or eight meters apart, and pruning is indispensable in order to give the tree a convenient shape from the begining, a low bower being the most adequate.

JUAN BALME
Director of Agriculture, San Jacinto, Federal District.

THE BELLS OF CHIHUAHUA

Ye solemn bells, with throats of silver bronze!
  What message do ye bring each passing hour?
To humble peones and to courtly Dons:
  Alike to grinding Poverty and Power?

Ye are the concrete Voice of Human Thought,
  Of one, lone gone, who lived and patient-wrought:
Perchance his name has long since been forgot:
  Yet still his mellow voice from self-same spot!

The founder's hand to kindred mold returns;
  His master-work remains a royal gift:
The joy of all, which high nor low e'er spurns,
  To higher plane e'er seeking man to lift.

Interpret, may we not, the silvery voice,
  The message understand to hast'ning man;
And thus be helped aright to make our choice
  'Twixt good and evil of Life's fleeting span?

The message of the quarters and the hours!
  How swiftly follows now its silvery strife
To offer, home and park and shaded bowers;
  One-two-three-four—one hour less of life!

One hour! One life entire of sportive mite,
  In rays inspiring of the glowing sun!
Yet man, thy many hours, tho' dark or bright,
  Are of eternity but one hour spun!

Oh, be not, Man, thy life the life of mite,
  A moment's flash 'twixt dusk and dark;
For vayant spark of God, the quenchless light,
  Which guides thy quest in wand'ring human bark!

Thine hours are limited, tho' great they seem;
  Divine commission unto thee assigned
Make each a priceless pearl, with life a-gleam;
  The gift of God thy soul to Him to bind.

The priceless hours are ours in trust to spend;
  We cannot hoard them or deny their flight.
When we our hours in loving service lend,
  We keep them safe and free from moral blight.

Then let us heed the message of the bells;
  Begrudge the greedy grasp of grov'ling cares
Upon our pearls, the hours, as time them tells,
  And swiftly on—us to the last one bears.

The shining hours are talents free from God;
  How shall we change them for eternal gain?
How win Love's increase from our mortal clod?
  This be our joyous task thro' shine and rain!

GEO. W. DITHRIDGE.

El Paso, Texas, July 1, 1914.

Petroleum Development

Notwithstanding the many conflicting reports in the American press regarding the petroleum industry in Mexico, a few facts stand out with prominence and serve to contradict certain misunderstandings. One of these facts is that all the leading companies are operating in all departments as usual; they are sinking new wells, constructing new pipe lines, and in every way extending their scope of operations. New companies and individuals are also constantly entering the district and seeking opportunities for investment and development. Notable among recent additions to the supply are three wells brought in during the month of June, one with a daily production of one hundred thousand barrels, and two others with fifty thousand barrels each. Elsewhere are given some very interesting official statistics regarding the industry, which should afford convincing proof of the mistaken ideas too frequently held regarding conditions in the petroleum fields.

Complete Official Petroleum Statistics

Stcretary of Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor Gives Out List of Companies Which Have Sunk Wells—Their Number, Depth and Production

The Secretary of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor has prepared a complete list of all the companies engaged in the development of the petroleum measures of the Republic, with the number of wells sunk by each, their depth, the amount of their production, or if unproductive. The list is as follows:

No. of Registration	Name of Company	Unproductive	Productive	Potential daily production in cubic meters	Now sinking	Total number Wells	Located
3	La Universal	....	1	700.00	1	2	....
4	Mexico y Espana	....	1	480.00	....	1	....
6	La Bibertad	....	1	8000.00	....	1	....
7	Cantabros en Panuco	1	....	....	1	2	....
8	La Nacional	....	....	....	1	1	....
13	El Alamo de Panuco	1	....	....	....	1	....
16	Tuxpan Ozuluama Petr. Co	....	....	....	1	1	....
18	Petrolera Martima	....	....	....	1	1	....
19	Freeport Mex. Fuel Oil Corp	2	7	2,586.01	4	13	1
20	C. F. Ireland	1	2	174.00	....	3	....
21	James A. Weir	1	....	....	5	6	1
22	Esfuerzo Tampiqueno	....	....	....	1	1	....
23	El Caiman	....	....	....	1	1	....
24	Panuco Valley Oil Fields	....	1	66.77	....	1	2
27	Southern Company	1	....	....	....	1	....
30	Explotadora Topila	....	1	160.00	....	1	....
32	La Trasatlantica	....	....	....	....	....	1
33	Panuco Mahuaves	....	....	....	1	1	....
34	Lluvia de Oro	....	....	....	1	1	....
36	Esfesfuerzo Nacional	....	....	....	1	1	....
38	El Vado Oil Fields	....	....	....	1	1	....
40	La Victoria, S. A.	....	1	8.18	....	1	....
42	Transcontinental de Petroleo	1	1	1,324.43	1	3	2
43	Veracruz Mex. Oil Syndicate	....	6	1,852.60	1	7	1
44	Ricardo A. Mestres	....	....	....	....	....	2
46	English Oil Company	4	3	2,149.00	3	10	....
48	El Espino, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
49	Pedro Irisari	....	1	2.00	....	1	....
52	Tampascas Oil Company	1	5	726.00	....	6	1
53	National Petroleum Corp.	....	....	....	1	1	....
54	Gulf Coast Corporation	1	4	20.67	....	5	....
61	Los Perforadores	....	2	297.50	....	2	....
62	Hispano Mexicana	1	1	4,770.00	....	2	....
67	Tal Vez, S. A.	....	2	10,000.00	....	2	1
72	Monterrey, S. A.	....	1	12.23	....	1	....
73	International Petroleum Co.	2	2	302.89	12	16	....
75	Margenes del Panuco	....	....	....	1	1	....
76	Panuco Topila Petroleum Co.	....	1	15.00	....	1	....
77	El Fenix, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
78	Las dos Estrellas	....	....	....	....	....	1
79	Productora de Petroleo	1	1	238.50	1	3	....
84	John F. Penrose	1	....	....	....	1	....
85	National Oil Co	....	4	4,078.17	1	5	....
86	Mexican National Oil Co.	2	....	....	....	2	1
87	Zaleta Mar Oil Co	1	....	....	....	1	....
89	La Herradura, S. A.	1	....	....	....	1	....
92	Continental Mexican Petr.	....	....	....	....	....	1
93	El Indio, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
95	La Oaxaquena,. S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
96	Oil Fields of Mexico Co.	23	12	59.65	1	36	1
100	New England Fuel Co.	....	3	3,317.20	....	3	....
101	La Oriental Mex. de Petroleo	....	....	....	....	....	1
102	La Esperanza, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
106	Abastecedora de A. y Refinadora de Petroleo	....	....	....	2	2	1
110	Panuco Excelsior Oil Co	....	1	238.50	....	1	....
119	Adrian Petroleum Co.	....	....	....	2	2	....
120	Cortez Oil Corporation	1	2	802.95	1	3	3
121	Inglesa Explotadora de Petroleo	1	....	....	1	2	....
122	Tantoyuca y Anexas, S. A.	....	....	....	2	2	....
128	Alejandro P. Wiechers	....	....	....	....	....	5
135	Mexicana Petrolera del Golfo	....	2	111.30	....	2	....
136	La Corona, S. A.	8	13	16,850.69	5	26	....
137	A. R. Byrd and Sons	....	....	....	....	....	1
138	Ore Mexicano, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
142	La Bonanza, S. A.	....	1	2.40	....	1	....
146	American Fuel Oil Co.	....	2	802.95	....	2	....
148	Topila Petroleum Co.	....	1	63.60	....	1	....
151	Mexican Gulf Oil Co.	6	7	15,176.50	3	16	1
152	Tampico Panuco Oil Fields	1	1	1.43	3	5	2
153	Chijoles Oil Limited	....	7	151.19	....	7	....
154	American International Fuel, Pet. Co.	8	....	....	....	8	....
156	Henry Stoopen	....	....	....	1	1	1
159	East Coast Oil Co.	5	16	20,319.17	1	22	1
164	F. D. Martino Dietz y Cocios	....	1	14,310 00	....	1	1
165	Texas Co. of Mexico	1	8	3,919.70	2	11	3
167	Mexican Oil Co.	....	2	635.98	1	3	....
168	Smith Oil Co.	1	....	....	....	1	....
169	Pan American Oil Co.	....	1	795.00	1	2	1
171	Orillas de Panuco	....	....	....	1	1	....
179	Explotadora (Neuevo Leon)	....	1	15.90	1	2	....
180	Mexicana de Combustible	6	7	1,618.52	2	15	1
181	Hispano Cubana	....	1	397.00	....	1	....
183	Malcolm C. Anderson	....	2	22.25	....	2	....
184	Piedras Development Co.	....	1	5.56	....	1	....
186	Lot Seventeen Co.	....	2	8.26	....	2	....
189	Punta Arena y Anexas	....	....	....	....	....	1
195	Comercio de Puebla, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
199	La Argentina	1	....	....	....	1	....
200	Mexico Fuel Oil Co.	3	5	367.13	....	8	1
201	Hidalgo Oil Co.	....	....	....	1	1	....
202	Otontepec Petroleum Co.	....	....	....	....	....	1
204	Cia Financiera de Petroleo	....	....	....	1	1	....
208	Mexican Development Syndt.	....	....	....	....	1	....
210	El Azadon, S. A.	1	....	....	1	2	....
216	La Concordia, S. A.	....	1	No hay datos.....		1	....
217	Nueva Bonanza de Panuco	....	....	....	1	1	....
218	El Aguila, S. A.	213	120	21,227.07	22	355	21
219	Tamiahua Petroleum Co.	....	1	143.83	....	1	....
220	Mex. Petroleum Co. of California	12	33	2,513.45	8	53	....
222	Huasteca Petroleum Co.	14	7	48,412.17	5	26	1
223	Tuxpan Petroleum Co	....	....	....	1	1	....
225	Mundacadiz, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
230	J. Casiano, Tux. Petr. Co. of Cuba	....	....	....	....	....	1
232	Harry Hummel	1	....	....	....	1	....
235	La Tolteca, S. A.	....	....	....	....	....	1
238	Tampico Oil Lmtd.	3	3	31.79	2	8	....
242	Tampico Oil Co.	1	....	....	....	1	....
245	Penn. Mex. Fuel Co.	10	5	11,134.35	4	19	3
246	La Equidad	....	....	....	1	1	....
248	Espana, Cia. de Petroleo, S. A.	....	....	....	....	....	1
250	Petrolera de Tepetate, S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
256	Consolidada de Petroleo	....	....	....	1	1	....
257	(El Trinfo), S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
258	Seguranza, S. A.	1	....	....	2	3	....
260	La Giralda, S. A.	....	2	192.00	....	2	....
262	La Meridional, S. A.	....	....	....	....	....	1
263	La Tampiquena, S, Javiery Anexos	....	....	....	1	1	....
290	Tex. Mex. Fuel Oil Co.	....	1	400.00	....	1	....
292	Cia. Nacional de Petroleo, Naco	....	....	....	1	1	....
298	Mex. Premier Oil Co., S. A.	....	....	....	1	1	....
300	Eureka Cuauhtemoc	....	1	1,079.00	....	1	....
305	Sun Oil Company	....	1	127.20	....	1	1
313	Petrolera Poblana, S. A.	....	1	2,400.00	....	1	....
316	Cia. Petrolera "La Comercial"	....	....	....	....	....	2
318	Panuca Boston Oil Co.	....	2	1,130.00	....	2	....
321	Regiones Petroliferas Mexicanas	....	4	3,465.10	....	4	....
324	Puebla en Panuco, S. A.	1	....	....	1	2	....
332	Rudolph H. Rader	....	....	....	....	....	1
	Los Brujos, S. A.	1	....	....	1	2	....
	Dos Banderas Oil Vo.	....	....	....	1	1	....
	Feegs Oil Company	1	....	....	....	1	....
	Tampico Oil Co.	....	....	....	....	....	1
	Petrolrea Maritima (pozo perteneciente al Gbno. Fed.)	....	....	....	1	1	....
	Clipton & Smith	....	....	....	....	....	1
	Hidalgo Pet. Co.	....	....	....	1	1	....
	W. H. Miliken	....	1	3.18	....	1	....
	Ohio Mex. Oil Co.	....	1	795.00	....	1	....
	Cia. Mexicana de Petroleo del Golfo, S. A.	1	1	11.13	....	2	....
	Producers Oil Co. (Controlada por Tex. Oil)	....	[illegible]	1,224.30	1	3	1
	Cia. de Rio Vista	1	....	....	....	1	....
	Scottish Mex. Oil Co.	3	....	....	....	3	....
	Sims and Bowser	....	1	79.50	....	1	....
	Spanish Mex. Oil Co.	....	....	....	1	1	....
	J. W. Solane	....	....	....	1	1	....
	J. R. Sharp	....	1	39.75	....	1	....
	Tampico Fruit Co. (Tampico Banking Co.	....	1	0.64	....	1	....
	Tampico Fuel Oil Co.	....	1	127.20	....	1	....
	Anglo Mexican Oil Fields	9	....	....	....	9	....
	SUMAS TOTALES	362	339	212,593.44	141	842	77

In addition to the foregoing there are now 77 wells more whose sinking had not been commenced prior to December 31, 1917. The total number of wells in existence is 919, of which 362 are unproductive, 339 are producing, 141 are in process of sinking and 77 had been located up to the first of the year.

The potential daily production of 212,593 cubic meters is the equivalent of the same number of metric tons (2,200 pounds) and equals 1,337,212,74 barrels.

Any companies claiming to have wells in operation and whose names are not given in this list have no foundation for such claims.

OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM IN MEXICO DURING 1917

Following is a complete tabulation of the production of petroleum in Mexico during the year 1917. No other companies than those named have produced any oil within the period named.

	CUBIC METERS	TONS	BARRELS OF 42 GALLONS
Hispano-Mexican Petroleum Co., S. A.	138,800	134,503	873,052
Chijoles Oil, Ltd.	241,000	230,998	1,515,890
La Victoria Petroleum Co., S. A.	250,250	245,361	1,574,072
Topila Petroleum Company	318,000	307,970	2,000,220
Monterry Petroleum Co., S. A.	3,967,940	3,850,657	24,958,343
Mexico and Spain Petroleum Co., S. A.	4,710,000	4,608,955	29,625,900
Mexican Petroleum Co. of the Gulf, S. A.	4,768,420	4,685,452	29,993,362
"La Petrolera Poblana," S. A.	5,226,000	5,061,965	32,871,540
Oil Fields of Mexico Company	5,515,066	4,921,652	34,689,765
Mexican Combustibles Co., S. A.	9,674,480	9,255,130	60,852,479
Transcontinental Petroleum Co., S. A.	18,969,000	18,611,187	119,315,010
Tampascas Oil Company	27,810,000	27,240,964	174,924,900
Mexican Oil Company	45,909,380	44,345,787	288,770,000
Vera Cruz Mexican Oil syndicate	57,274,860	56,266,957	360,258,869
International Petroleum Company, S. A.	98,541,850	96,902,064	1,162,223,402
"La Corona" Petroleum Co., S. A.	117,738,660	114,747,482	619,828,236
National Oil Company	119,807,610	117,493,363	740,576,171
Panuco Boston Oil Company	131,648,230	129,073,032	753,589,867
"Tal Vez" Petroleum Company, S. A.	157,323,000	153,865,766	828,067,367
Mexican Petroleum Company, S. A.	178,967,000	176,034,205	989,561,670
Mexican Gulf Oil Company	184,545,950	179,818,520	1,125,702,430
The Texas Company of Mexico, S. A.	368,113,400	360,772,150	1,160,794,025
East Coast Oil Company	499,717,170	489,918,286	2,315,433,286
Freeport and Mexican Fuel Oil Co.	648,168,840	636,339,264	3,143,220,999
Penn. Mex. Fuel Oil Company	656,485,956	600,523,454	4,076,982,004
"El Aguila" Mexican Petroleum Co., S. A.	2,690,353,392	2,480,430,907	16,992,322,836
Huasteca Petroleum Co.	2,754,399,229	2,548,480,324	17,325,171,150
	8,790,583,483	8,264,266,355	55,292,770,106

EXPORTS OF PETROLEUM FOR 1917

Following are the statistics showing the exportation of petroleum from various Mexican ports during the year 1917, together with the totals for 1916.

PORT OF TAMPICO

	TONS			
	CRUDE	REFINED	TOTAL	VALUE
January	170,329.032	142,387.177	312,716.209	$ 2,297,267.08
February	183,334,001	106,814.726	290,148.727	2,079,932.07
March	251,755.895	149,949.442	401,705.337	2,925,107.11
April	239,160.323	191,298.094	430,458.417	3,160,165.80
May	242,881.663	124,592.050	367,473.713	2,680,524.62
June	227,753.917	156,035.171	383,789.088	2,824,214.35
July	257,792.158	190,427.660	448,219.818	3,231,378.69
August	234,335.733	149,356.834	383,692.567	2,815,073.71
September	306,528.300	155,598.900	462,127.200	3,290,262.79
October	311,463.549	205,856.963	517,320.512	3,831,140.38
November	256,916.542	136,891.951	393,808.493	2,864,253.66
December	207,829.468	183,977.314	391,806.782	2,889,952.93
TOTAL	2,890,080.581	1,893,186.282	4,783,266.863	$34,889,273.19

PORT OF TUXPAN

	TONS			
	CRUDE	REFINED	TOTAL	VALUE
January	83,899.085	....	83,899.085	$ 632,713.69
February	85,878.122	....	85,878.122	585,983.49
March	157,057.430	....	157,057.430	1,665,599.25
April	173,296.890	....	173,296.890	1,176,312.54
May	168,150.182	....	168,150.182	1,143,281.81
June	136,415.561	....	136,415.561	930,153.67
July	137,581.360	....	137,581.360	1,492,869.61
August	147,021.094	1,132.005	148,153.099	1,592,611.73
September	96,029.227	....	96,029.227	1,217,972.82
October	101,441.419	439.415	101,880.834	1,286,147.65
November	67,274.765	4,981.436	72,256.201	937,559.83
December	60,806.418	5,713.273	56,519.691	868,372.72
TOTAL	1,414,851.553	12,266.129	1,427,117.682	$12,929,578.81

PUERTO MEXICO

	TONS	
	REFINED	VALUE
January	22,682.595	$433,224.75
February	6,900.280	279,155.45
March	10,831.051	127,655.13
April	44,050.000	822,409.00
May	14,600.000	583,080.40
June	13,837.205	260,835.50
July	9 000.000	173,520.00
August	20,500.000	417,160.00
September	15,000.000	289,200.00
October	9,431.024	532,464.00
November	39,300.000	793,744.00
December	1,580.775	22,004.80
TOTAL	207,712.930	$ 5,734,453.03

OTHER PORTS

	TONS	
	REFINED	VALUE
May	430.873	$ 3,330.65
June	636.383	4,919.23
July	1,012.629	57,742.77
August	978.586	9,001.54
September	1,217.768	13,418.30
October	1,176.704	11,353.14
November	974.436	10,851.31
December	1,510.781	12,205.00
TOTAL	7,938.160	$122,821.94

SUMMARY OF ALL EXPORTS FOR 1917

	TONS			
	CRUDE	REFINED	TOTAL	VALUE
Tampico	2,890,080.581	1,893,186.282	4,783,266.863	$ 34,889,273.19
Tuxpan	1,414,851.553	12,266.129	1,427,117.682	12,929,578.81
Puerto Mexico	....	207,712.930	207,712.930	5,734,453.03
Other Ports	....	7,938.160	7,938.160	122,821.94
TOTAL	4,304,932.134	2,121,103.501	6,426,035.635	$ 53,676,126.97
PERCENTAGE	67	33	100	

SUMMARY OF EXPORTS FOR 1916

	CRUDE	REFINED	TOTAL
Tampico	1,829,460.880	840,813.090	2,670,273.970
Tuxpan	1,141,642.740	....	1,141,642.740
Puerto Mexico	7,000.000	220,809.580	227,809.580
TOTAL	2,978,103.620	1,061,622.670	4,039,726.290
PERCENTAGE	73.7	26.3	100

History and Romance of Silver

How great a part silver, the metal which is harder than gold, but softer than copper, has played in the history of the world is shown by Benjamin White in his recently published work, "Silver, Its History and Romance," the first book of its kind, as the author points out, that has ever been written.

The principal forms in which silver is found, writes Mr. White, are native silver, argentite, red silver ore and horn silver. Veins of native silver are to be found in rocks in Cornwall, Saxony, Siberia, Mexico, Nevada, Ontario, and Burma.

Argentite—a compound of silver and sulphur—occurs in districts similar to those where native silver is located.

Red silver ore—containing perhaps 60 per cent of silver—appears rusty and crystalline; it is abundant in Mexico and California.

Horn silver is a compound with chlorine, and occurs plentifully in South America.

The chief silver producing mine in the world in 1915 was the Anaconda, situated in the United States of America, which yielded 6,983,823 ounces. The second in importance was the Nipissing, in the Cobalt district of Ontario, the output of which was 4,610,051 ounces.

The total production of Germany in 1914 was 4,984,677 ounces.

The output of Turkey in 1914 was 1,500,000 ounces.

The only state among the small countries producing silver is Serbia, which yielded 12,000 ounces in 1914.

Mexico is reckoned by Mr. White as the silver producing country worthy of first consideration, lately averaging nearly one-third of the world's total. It is estimated that from 1521 to 1891 Mexico produced silver to the value of $4,000,000,000. From 1781 to 1800 it has been authoritatively asserted that Mexico yielded two-thirds of the world's production during that perior. Three-fourths of the mineral possibilities of the republic are said to be unexploited. Upward of 5,000 fresh claims are registered in each year.

The author explains that the phenomenal finds of silver in the United States of America—Arizona, middle Nevada, central Idaho—were partly the cause of the abandonment or bimetallism by all the great nations, one after the other, with the exception of China, which is now hesitating upon the brink of a similar step.

After going exhaustively into the subject of the world's production of silver, Mr. White proceeds to explain the processes of assaying and refining, and one learns that silver was reduced from ores by smelting in the year 2000 B. C.

The earliest known Egyptian silver article is a necklace of beads, supposed to be of the twelfth dynasty (2400 B. C.)

As to the use of silver for decorative purposes in buildings, mention is made of the splendid palace reared by Chrosroes, the Persian King of Parthia. The edifice was said to have been supported upon 40,000 silver pillars of diverse beauty and ornamentation. All that now remains of the palace is the so-called arch of Ctesiphon, and it was near this arch that the British troops in 1915 fought an engagement in Mesopotamia upon an ancient battle ground.

A feature in the great cathedrals of Spain is the high altar, which graces the center of the building. The grille of Barcelona cathedral is back like iron, but artificially so. It is really composed of solid silver painted over and portions have been cleaned in order to display the fact.

It is said that fine silver leaf is used in India for medicinal purposes. Wounds are sewn together with silver wire, and bones bound with silver bands. Missing parts of the skull, nose, or ear and tooth are replaced with silver. Gerald Campbell in his "Verdun to the Vosges" states that Gen. von Haeseler, the idol of the German troops, an idol not wholly composed of flesh and blood, but partly composed of precocious metal, is "a man of iron will with ribs of silver, which he wore in place of those he lost in the Franco-Prussian war."

The author recalls the fact that the huge indemnity obtained by Germany from France gave her the power to remodel her currency, and to demonetize silver in 1873. By this means she hoped to involve France in difficulties, and to cripple her power to recuperate. —Alice M. Archer.

Chinese Immigration Opposed

The National Department of Health Is Antagonistic to the Unlimited Admission of Mongolians

A SUBJECT of great importance from a sanitary point was discussed recently by the Department of Health of Mexico, that of immigration as it relates to national well-being. The session which was held with this subject in view was of an interesting character. The discussion was brought about by news received by this department that two thousand immigrants from the coast of China were on their way to Mexico and would disembark at the port of Salina Cruz.

All those experienced in the matter are agreed on two fundamental points, said Dr. J. M. Rodriguez—that the Mongolian race in general, and the Chinese in particular, are inferior to all Europeans and to Spanish-American peoples. Moreover, the part of the ex-empire of China from which this contingent of immigrants proceeds is not the north, where the race is hardiest, but from the south of that distant republic, whose people are the most degenerate, the most unhealthy and the most vicious. Therefore, it is time to limit immigration if we would avoid countless ills that would affect our future citizens by transmission of shameful and incurable diseases.

In Sonora, continued the official, the greater part of the small businesses is in the hands of the Chinese; in Torreon, which is a city of 30,000 inhabitants, there are more than 4000 of these people, and in Mexico the Chinese colony is large and comes for the greater part from the southern provinces of China. For this reason the works of Drs. Valenzuela and Tellez Giron are of great interest and will serve to guide the future emigration policy of Mexico.

The work of Dr. Valenzuela was the first presented for the consideration of the meeting. That of Dr. Tellez Giron is a criticism or rather an amplification of this treatise. The basis of these treatises is the thought of Dr. Reeves, who, in his famous work on emigration to America, says: "America was providentially created to gather to her bosom all the scum of Europe." "A sad destiny which that man of science has apportioned to our country," said Dr. Tellez Giron. This is the point on which these two treatises hinge.

It is well to add here that Dr. Valenzuela lived many years in Hong-Kong, that Asiatic port from which have set sail the great numbers of emigrants that come to our shores. There he had the opportunity to examine thousands of those men who used every means in their power, from deception to an effort to bribe, in order to hide the infirmities which made of them undesirable immigrants for any country.

It is difficult, said the authors of these papers, to make a wise selection, for the physician can only discover these loathsome diseases when there are external signs. He can, by information gathered with great difficulty, learn if they are opium smokers. When the outward evidence is lacking, or when the would-be emigrant has left off the smoking of opium for a month or two before embarkation, the vice will not be discovered and he will, on arrival in Mexico, continue his evil custom and transmit this horrible vice to our people. The alcoholists, if not actually intoxicated in the moment of embarking, will not be detected, so that discrimination is difficult if not entirely impossible.

The Chinese Government endeavors to prevent the inhabitants of the northern provinces, from Manchuria to the Steppes of Siberia, leaving their country for any reason whatever. Thus the government by means of its authority impedes emigration from that region where the race is more vigorous and healthy, and on the other hand assists and protects in every way possible emigration when it is to rid the country of the undesirables. In a country of so congested a population they think it well to be rid of those of contaminated blood who wish to emigrate to lands where immigrants are needed. Needed, yes, but not those who bring with them a useless life.

The emigrants from European countries especially are of two classes. First those who come to America seeking a wider horizon, an economical betterment of their condition which in their own country cannot be found for many reasons, particularly on account of the crowded population. These are the emigrants that help build up the new countries, but those of the criminal class who are fugitives from their own country, hoping to escape justice, the diseased and useless are negative factors toward our progress, and many of them not only negative factors, but are moreover actually prejudicial to the country.

The ideas of the Department of Health may be summed up in this manner, to judge from the discussion on this most importnt question. But as that department has no authority to correct international treaties, this discussion will serve as a warning to those who understand and work out international questions. But this the department may do. It will endeavor for sanitary reasons to keep out of the country all the diseased, maimed or otherwise useless as laborers.

Settlement of the Yaqui Question

Colonization of Lands and Pacification of Indians

FINAL settlement of the Yaqui question, the colonization of 200,000 to 300,000 acres of land in the Yaqui and Mayo river valleys, and the inauguration of a comprehensive plan for the construction of a state system of improved highways at an annual expenditure of over half a million dollars, are the momentous plans which have taken shape in the country to the south, and which will be carried out by all authorities of the Commonwealth of Sonora.

Señor Adolfo R. Cardenas, member of the Congress of Sonora, in an interview gave out the foregoing information.

The settlement of the Yaqui question has come about through the efforts of Gen. Plutarco Elias' Calles, military commandant of the district, and the arrangement promises to settle permanently one of the greatest obstacles to the development of one of the richest sections of northwest Mexico.

Briefly, the campaign recently conducted by General Calles against the "broncos," or rebellious Yaquis, has resulted in terms of peace being agreed on by the unruly element of the tribe, whereby they will return to the Yaqui delta and take up their residence upon the land allotted to them under the treaty of 1897.

A strong military force will be maintained in their vicinity, and a cordon of troops will be established around the reservation, to protect the Indians and to prevent any of them who might at any time feel disposed to resume hostilities from leaving the reservation.

The disposal of the Yaqui menace makes possible the great project of settlement of the fertile lands of the Mayo and Yaqui river valleys. Between 200,000 and 300,000 acres of the finest agricultural land in Sonora are located in these valleys.

General Calles has gone to Mexico City to confer with the Federal authorities regarding the details for the colonization of these lands. These plans contemplate opening this land for settlement under regulations very similar to the homestead law of the United States, so that actual settlers will be able to secure farms upon exceedingly easy terms.

There is land enough for the maintenance of 3000 or 4000 families in the section named, and the plan will aim to insure that none but a desirable class of settlers be admitted to the right to acquire locations in the new district.

The third great project—a state system of improved highways for Sonora—was inaugurated through a law passed at the recent session of the Sonora Congress. This law provides that a poll tax of one peso a month be levied upon all male citizens of Sonora over the age of 21. There are about 100,000 who will be subject to this tax, which will give a revenue of 1,200,000 pesos, or $600,000 a year. This is to be devoted to road building.

The law contemplates that a comprehensive plan shall be adopted which will result in the state road system connecting the principal cities, the different agricultural sections, and the most prominent mining districts. Owing to labor conditions in Mexico, greater results can be obtained with the sum provided than from a similar sum in the United States.

The plan contemplates a connection at Nogales with the road system of Arizona, and a similar connection at Douglas and Naco. Just where construction will be started is not yet certain, but it will be either at the northern borders of Sonora or else between Hermosillo and Guaymas. It may be that the 90 miles between the two latter cities will be the first link in the great state road system to be built, but if that is done, the main road will be extended next from Hermosillo north to the Arizona border.—*Nogales* (Arizona) *Oasis.*

Mexico a Resurgent Nation

Congressman Modesto C. Rolland Tells About the Land Question and Other Steps in Advancement

MEXICO has reached the turning point in her history. Instead of remaining merely an insurgent nation, she now has good grounds for the hope of becoming a resurgent nation.

Every great popular revolution in Mexico has been agrarian in its nature. Time and again, the common people, unable to endure longer the intolerable condition of practical slavery under which they were forced to exist, have revolted and established their rights to the land of their birth by force. But always, either by counter revolution, by foreign intervention, or by the insidious action of the great land-owning classes during the periods of peace, those rights have again been wrested from them.

But under the leadership of Francisco Madero, the martyred president, a new idea regarding the fundamentals of reconstruction emerged. Since his death that idea has grown and spread, until today many of the popular leaders in all sections of the country have adopted it as the indispensable prerequisite to all other reforms.

I'm afraid you will think this new idea rather an anti-climax after what I have just said. It is not at all revolutionary or violent. At first sight it may seem irrelevant and futile. The new idea is simply this—the adequate taxation of land values.

Under the old Diaz regime, an overwhelming percentage of the revenue of the country for all federal, state and municipal purposes was derived from indirect taxes, tariffs on imports and taxes on bills of sale, contracts and all manner of legal documents. The direct federal taxes on our wonderfully rich and productive mineral resources yielded less than three per cent. of the total, and the state and municipal levies on grazing, timber, agricultural and oil lands were similarly almost negligible. Farming and grazing tracts valued at a half million pesos often escaped with an annual tax of three or four hundred pesos.

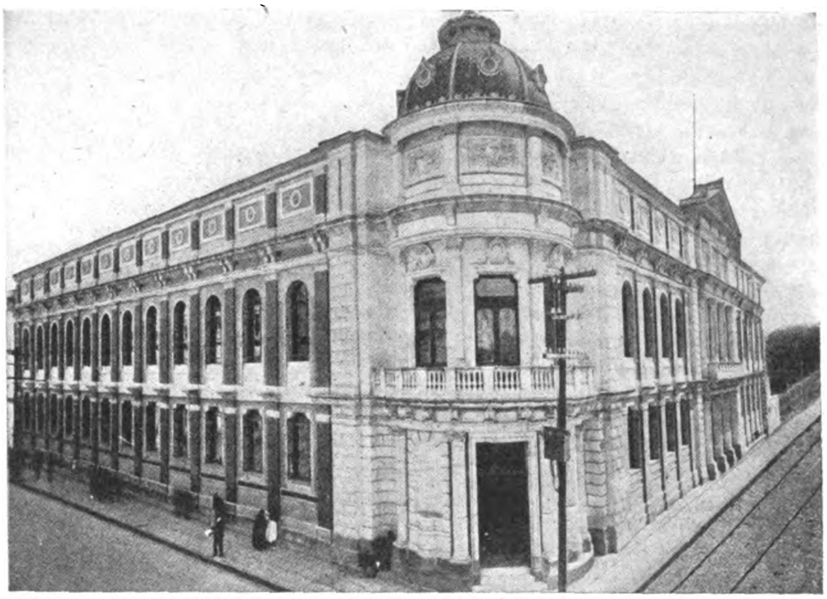
The result of this system of taxation increased the cost of living, lowered wages, and made peonage inevitable. You think that is too sweeping a generalization? Let me see whether I can't make the connection clear to you.

Our tariffs on imports were levied largely on articles of daily necessity. The stamp taxes on bills of sale were payable on all articles sold within the Republic, every time they changed hands. As shoes, clothing, foodstuffs and all the other commodities essential to human life often change hands a dozen or more times on their way from the producer of raw materials, through the establishments of the commission men, manufacturers or millers, wholesalers and retailers to the ultimate consumer; and as each transfer entailed the payment of a tax to the government amounting in some States to 3 per cent of the value of the goods, it is clear that by the time a loaf of bread, a tin of meat or a pair of overalls came into the possession of the common laborer, the price to him was composed largely of accumulated taxes.

But that phase of the matter, bad as it was, was not the worst evil that came in the train of the old system of taxation. The virtual exemption of lands and natural resources from taxation made speculation in such property the most profitable business in which one could engage. Because of the progress of civilization, both in Mexico and abroad, land values were increasing rapidly from year to year. It cost little or nothing to pay the annual taxes on the land. Consequently, the more fortunate and shrewder Mexicans, and a horde of foreign speculators, lost no time in taking advantage of the opportunities to get rich without working. By force, fraud or resort to establish legal machinery, the lands which had been won by force of arms under Juarez in the Revolution of 1857, and which had been sub-divided among the peons, slowly but inexorably passed into the hands of a small group of Mexicans and foreigners.

Because the stakes were so large and so absolutely certain, the cupidity inherent in all of us led the favored few to seize more and more of the territory of the country, by hook or by crook. Every year, lands were wrung from the possession of the peon farmers, and were added to the unused holdings of the landlords. Every year laborers, who had been making an independent though frugal living on their little lands, were dispossessed and forced to seek work in the great mining camps or in the great haciendas of the river valleys.

With every new withdrawal of land from use, with every new increment to the supply of the landless wage earners, the lot of the peon became harder. He was not allowed to work for himself on the land which was rightfully his. His only recourse in order to keep himself and his family from starvation was to work on such terms as the landlords imposed—and peonage was among those terms.



The Normal School in Mexico City for the Training of Teachers and Professors

By bitter experience we have learned in Mexico that the finest and most equitable constitutions and codes of the law in the world cannot prevail against injustice and oppression, unless conditions of economic justice are first established. That is the great task to which we have set ourselves, and our weapon will be the adequate taxation of land values. Whenever a proper adjusted tax is imposed on the value of a piece of land, it is no longer profitable for the owner to hold that land out of use. He must either utilize it or allow it to revert to the government. Under such conditions, peonage will disappear, and wages will rise, for the position of the employers and the laborers will be reversed. The employers will have to compete among themselves in order to get laborers, instead of the laborers having to underbid one another in order to get jobs. These statements are not based merely on theory or on wild guesses. They are proven beyond any question of doubt in the State of Yucatan where we have already experimented with the new system.

It could not be considered a breach of courtesy on my part to suggest to Americans that they read the works of their own great economist, Henry George. In his book, "Progress and Poverty," he proves by logic what we Mexicans have had to learn by bitter experience—that the monopoly of land and natural resources lies at the root of all our economic and social maladjustments. If Americans would only devote as much attention to the teachings of that book as the citizens of Australia, New Zealand, Canada and several of the Latin-American countries have done, they would soon be on the way to the solution of some of their most vexing problems.

Mining Activity in Sonora

Consul-General De la Huerta Gives Some Interesting Information Regarding That Industry

IN THE first interview given to the press after his arrival in New York to assume the duties of Consul General of Mexico, Senor Adolfo de la Huerta gave to a representative of the *Industrial and Mining Age* his views on the revival of mining in Mexico. The Consul considers the mining outlook in the southern Republic as brighter than ever before. He is particularly enthusiastic as to the silver mines of Mexico, the total production of which approximates $4,500,000,000. He pointed out the intensity with which mining all over the Republic has developed, calling attention to the splendid fashion in which the mines in the States of Hidalgo, Mexico, Zacatecas, and Guanajuato have entered an era of great prosperity.

Before leaving Mexico for New York, Senor de la Huerta stopped over in Sonora, his native State, where he remained several weeks. He served for over a year as the Civil Governor of Sonora, being succeeded only about five months ago by the present incumbent, General Plutarco Elias Calles. The splendid record he made in the administration of the affairs of that State, as well as the remarkable role he played in the revolutionary movement headed by Senor Venustiano Carranza and in the Department of the Interior, where he served for more than a year under the Constitutional Government, eminently fit him for his work as Consul General. It is certain, therefore, that his administration of the office will bring about a better understanding between his country and the United States.

Senor de la Huerta is a young man of progressive ideas and has an attractive and forceful personality. He is the proud possessor of a large gold medal presented to him by the Mayo Indians as evidence of their esteem and in recognition of the just manner in which he conducted affairs affecting their land interests.

Questioned as to mining conditions in the southern Republic, particularly in the State of Sonora, Senor de la Huerta said:

"It is a source of great satisfaction to me to be able to say that mining activity in Mexico is rapidly returning to normal conditions and that the outlook for the industry is very bright. As all those who have investigated are aware, Mexico is a great treasure-house of minerals. It has other vast resources, of course, but on account of its great production of the precious metals, it is best known as a mining country. While the development of all resources is making good headway, mining is leading in the rehabilitation of the nation, and the future output of silver to say nothing of other metals, will make the production of the past, great as it has been, appear comparatively insignificant.

"Throughout the Republic mining companies which have been operating on a reduced scale are returning to normal conditions, and companies whose properties have been idle for several years have resumed or are preparing to resume operations. The mine operators of Mexico, native and foreign, are keenly alive to the opportunity afforded by the stellar position silver has attained and can be depended upon to exert their utmost efforts to place the nation once more in the lead as a producer of silver in the shortest possible time.

"Sonora is in itself a mineral kingdom. Notwithstanding its great output of silver, copper, and gold in the past, the State has hardly been 'scratched' and it has yet to gain its greatest fame as a producer of these metals. Sonora is leading all other States in mining operations and the future for the industry there is very bright. I am certain that there will be a continuance of this improvement and that Sonora in the future will be a greater factor in contributing to the yield of silver and other metals by the nation as a whole than in the past.

"At the great camp of Cananea the Greene-Cananea resumed operations early in December and it is rapidly returning to normal production. The Moctezuma Copper Company, controlled by the Phelphs-Dodge interests, is working its mines at Nacozari with a full force of miners and is steadily increasing operations at its Promontorio mines, near Lampazos, in the Moctezuma district. The El Tigre silver-gold mine, also in the Moctezuma district, is adding handsomely to its already great production. The Las Chispas mine, near Arizpe, is also rapidly returning to normal. The same is true of many other mines. It can be further stated that most of the companies that have not already resumed operations are getting ready to do so, and many new companies are preparing to enter the field. Therefore, I feel that I am justified in saying that the mining outlook is now more promising than ever before."

Mexico's Chief Aim To Remain Neutral

BY HIS EXCELLENCY, YGNACIO V. BONILLAS

(Ambassador of Mexico)

The Rumor Factory is always busy in Mexican affairs. The clear message of the Mexican Ambassador is a frank statement of Mexico's position toward the war.

MUCH has been said in the American press regarding German propaganda in Mexico; and to this effect I must state that the press in my country enjoys complete freedom, and as a proof of this you will find there not only pro-allied newspapers, but also newspapers antagonistic to the present Mexican administration. Being a neutral government, Mexico respects the press, treating all newspapers alike as long as they stay within the limits of neutrality; and this, of course, while the honor and sovereignity of Mexico is not affected.

It is a fact that the Mexican people are only giving their attention to the domestic situation of the country and to its complete reconstruction. Proof of this has been given by the failure of some Army officers who, due to personal ambitions, attempted to revolt against the legal government, and who have lacked entirely the support of the people.

Regarding the patriotism of the Mexican people, history speaks by itself, and I only have to add that the Embassy under my charge receives daily unmistakable proofs of loyalty and love towards the mother country from all Mexicans residing in this Republic. These patriotic manifestations are of different kinds, among the most significant being the fact that Mexicans without work and in need who seek employment in American enterprises, prefer to experience hardships rather than to renounce their citizenship, a requisite without which, many American concerns deny employment to them. These Mexicans are now returning to their own country, as fast as they can obtain means to do so.

There is nothing mysterious about Mexico's foreign policy. Reports to the contrary are based, perhaps, on failure to understand properly some of the guiding principles of our present action.

Our chief aim now is to remain neutral. To us this is not only a just, but a necessary policy. Mexico's position is not like that of other countries which until recently have enjoyed the benefits of peace, and have now felt it necessary to embark upon a policy of war.

When Mexico Was at War, We Were at Peace

Compare the position of the United States with that of Mexico, for example. While Mexico was engaged in her death struggle for liberty, while we were destroying ourselves in pursuance of our liberation from despotism, man against man and brother against brother, you were at peace.

Now you are at war and we are at peace. Should we develop our resources as a means to remedy the destruction caused by internal war and reconstruct the country, or should we interrupt our constructive work to seek out a policy which even your own leaders agree would be detrimental to the interests of the Mexican people?

If the question of Mexico's national honor or Mexico's sovereign rights were involved, a deliberate policy of selfsacrifice might be necessary. But we have no cause for resentment against the contending parties, as our interests have not been injured or greatly jeopardized.

We cannot afford to participate in the war on one side or the other if we can honorably avoid it. Our policy is, therefore, one of peace and reconstruction as against war and its ravages.

The allied nations claim to be fighting for Liberty, Democracy, the destruction of a military despotism, and to make the world fit for those principles. Mexico has fought during the last seven years for the same principles at home, and after untold sacrifices, has succeeded in deposing and driving out of existence the worst military despotism, and in establishing a Constitutional Government founded upon the principles of Justice to all, nationals and foreigners alike.

Money and Schools

Mexico Needs a Social and Economic Start More Than She Requires Political Correction

To the Editor of the Evening Sun:

Sir: The views of your correspondent, C. L. Ocon, in your issue of yesterday, ought not to pass without controversy. It is quite true that our diplomatic relations with Mexico are not at all satisfactory; but if President Carranza has become a handicap, why have we not made a friend of the Mexican President instead of a handicap? Carranza is a man of intelligence and education: a studious and well-read man. His government has been internationally recognized as legitimate, and it is absurd now to discuss action on the part of our Government tantamount to fostering a new revolution in that suffering country.

A residence of twelve years in Mexico has given me an adequate insight into the problems which any or all administrations there must face and solve. If our relations are not now entirely satisfactory, has our own conduct been always irreproachable? It cannot be so contended. The attitude of Secretary of State Bryan was especially harmful; indeed, stronger adjectives would be justified. It would be as impossible for President Wilson to take the hand of Felix Diaz as it was for him to take the dripping hand of Huerta, the usurper and suspected assassin of President Madero; for Felix Diaz was also a plotter and revolutionist against the legitimate administration of President Madero, which had been duly recognized on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. Diaz did his best to seize the Presidency by force, but was thrust aside by his coadjutor, General Huerta.

If the Germans have become active propagandists in Mexico that is only a branch of their world-wide campaign to make trouble. Why have we no propaganda in the interest of peace and international good will in Mexico? We have won golden opinions in Cuba, Central America, South America and the Philippines; why not also in Mexico? Mexico does not need another revolution; she needs friendly assistance, not with arms and troops, but with reciprocal treaties, with financial assistance and friendly cooperation. Our statesmen ought long ago to have realized and acted upon the knowledge that we could not stand aloof with 15,000,000 people across our southern border, 85 per cent of them illiterates, without the risk of friction. Illiterates are so easily swayed by demagogues that it is one of the easiest things in the world for propagandists to secure the attachment of followers, called bandits when in small numbers, but revolutionists when the bands learn to cooperate.

We ought, generations ago, to have loaned Mexico all the money she needed to establish a system of universal education. That would have insured peace and international friendship and all the blessings in their train on both sides of the Rio Grande. In New York City we spend about $60 per year for each pupil. At the rate of one pupil for every seven of population, Mexico should have over 2,000,000 children of school age, representing a disbursement of $120,000,000 per annum. The sum well spent might indeed be much larger, as there are 12,000,000 illiterates in Mexico.

Your correspondent uses the words "Carranza and his hordes." These words are painfully inappropriate. The people of Mexico are not "hordes"; they are of exceptionally intelligent mentality, industrious and hard working as well as faithful and trustworthy, as all Americans have found them. They are intensely patriotic and love their native land as the French love France, and this despite their most cruel expropriation by the Spaniards centuries ago; an expropriation that has never heretofore been righted. From 10 to 15 per cent of the inhabitants own the land, as a consequence of past spoliations, leaving about 12,000,000 without a foot of land, being tenants at will of the great landed proprietors, some of whom own more than 4000 square miles individually.

Your correspondent asserts that under Carranza confiscations, murders and hunger are increasing daily. The only confiscations were decreed by Villa, respecting which Carranza publicly announced that no decree of confiscation would be arbitrarily enforced, but only after a fair and free trial and proof of participation of the accused in the overthrow of the legitimate Madero administration; in other words, on conviction of treason. As to murders, let it be proved that murders in Mexico are more numerous per capita than in the United States. Respecting hunger, undoubtedly there is more evident and recognized hunger than previously, but the cause is not to the discredit of the Carranza administration. Under the system of tenants at will the tillers of the soil worked for one-half the crop, the proprietors furnishing the service of oxen and mules, wooden ploughs and other implements, and a scanty ration during the planting and harvesting season, payable with 100 per cent profit out of the tiller's half of the crops. Most of the landed proprietors, after participation in the Huerta usurpation, fled the country. The tillers have no animals, tools or rations to aid them make a crop. Many of the younger men have removed to the United States for employment. Is it then surprising that the corn and bean crops are now inadequate?

During my residence in Mexico the most painful and obtrusive fact was the chronic under nutrition of the masses of the people; genuine chronic famine. Another fact equally patent was the pride of the suffering people. They would endure privation to the limit of collapse without complaint or thought of charity. Why have we been so indifferent to the truth of conditions in Mexico for so many years, content to call the people "greasers" and to regard them as a turbulent, revolutionary "horde," not worthy of sympathy or kindness? To me it seems a blot on our escutcheon, notwithstanding our responsiveness to suffering and distress in all other parts of the world.

President Carranza, without doubt, is a man who has inherited the pride of his Spanish ancestry, and is none the worse for that. And kindness, sympathy and desire to help in a fraternal way will win the heart of every man the world over, whatever his ancestry or race. The heart of the President of Mexico is with the long down-trodden people, not with the favorites who parcelled out the land generations ago or took it up at nominal valuations in tracts as large as the State of Connecticut. Carranza is not a mercenary; he is a patriot, trying his best to rescue his people and set their faces to the rising sun. He is worthy of our respect and earnest co-operation in his difficult task.

It would be easy for Mexico to raise double the quantity of food she needs if she could be financed with seed, tractors, farming implements and the bare support of the laborers during the growing season. There are millions of acres lying idle to-day, capable of yielding 100 bushels of corn per acre, for lack of means to initiate the work.

It is hopeless to assume an attitude of antagonism to the legitimate Government of Mexico, but we might enter the country successfully with the will to serve and the funds to set the people to work. The so-called bandits would disappear like magic at the summons to go to work—work of any kind, in field or mine.

George W. Dithridge.

Hollis, L. I., April 27.

Señor Guillermo Seguin has been appointed consul for Mexico at San Antonio, Texas, which city has a larger proportion of his fellow-countrymen resident therein than any other in the United States. He has been instructed to leave nothing undone to advance international commerce and amity between the two countries. Mr. Seguin has filled important consular posts in various other portions of the United States with uniform success.

A new steamer line has been established directly from New Orleans to Tampico, the vessels going thence to Vera Cruz, Puerto Mexico and Frontera, to the south, and then returning to Tampico for final clearance to the American port. Vessels will leave New Orleans every ten days and it is expected great good will result from this new source of communication and transportation of freight and passengers.

What is known as the "Chamizal" case, involving the boundaries of Mexico and the United States between the cities of El Paso and Juarez has been again taken up, and the commission charged with the matter is again holding sessions. It is expected that an arbitration commission will be appointed to determine the questions involved.

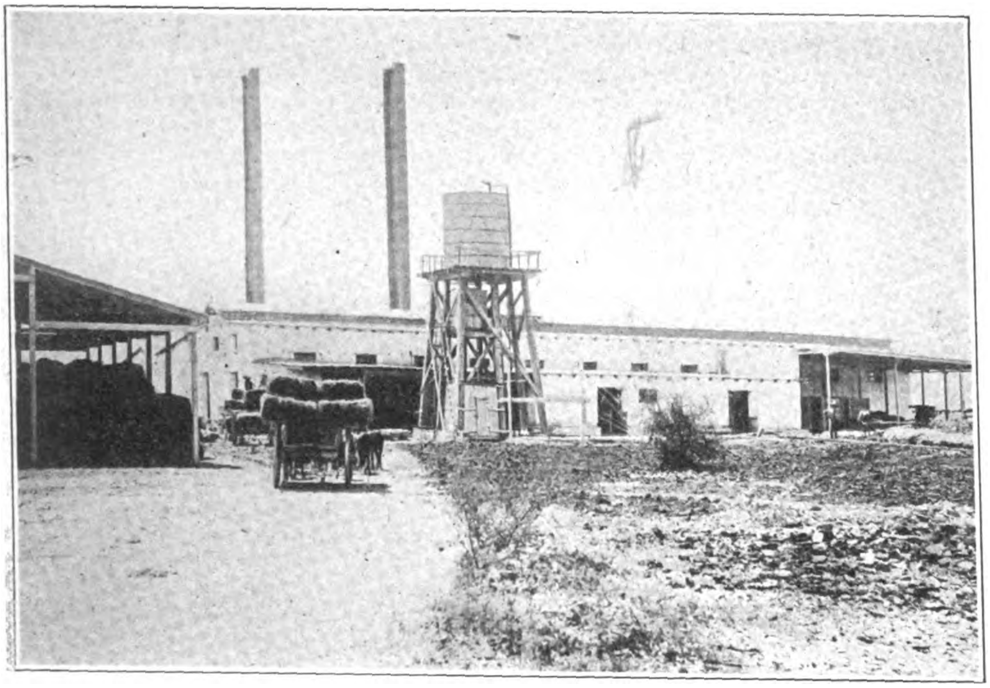
The total subscriptions of government employes to the establishment of the bank of emission that will soon be inaugurated have reached a total of some $2,200,000. These contributions consist of one day's salary each month and in return certificates of stock bearing five per cent interest are issued. The railroad employes alone contribute an average of $75,000 monthly.

Production of Guayule Rubber

A Comprehensive Account of One of the Modern and Successful Industries of Mexico

BY HENRY C. PEARSON

Commercial Agent United States Government.



Delivering Guayule at the Rubber Factory in Quatro Cienegas

EVEN before the Spanish occupation northern Mexico was a rubber producing country, the source being a shrub or dwarf tree today known as guayule. The natives obtained the gum by chewing the bark and made toy balls of it. It is said that this fact was first chronicled by a Jesuit priest, Negrete, about the middle of the eighteenth century.

The plant was discovered by Dr. J. M. Bigelow, in 1852, when he was attached to the Mexican Boundary Survey. It was later described and named *Parthenium argentatum* by Prof. Asa Gray, of Harvard University.

In 1876 a guayule product, known as Durango rubber, was exhibited at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition. Attention was drawn again to it in 1886, when an English mining engineer, working in Mexico, reported to his principals that he had found "an enormous quantity of a plant that yielded 10 per cent of rubber."

It was not until 1888, however, that any attempt was made to extract the gum commercially. In that year John H. Cheever, the founder and at that time the treasurer of the New York Belting & Packing Co., New York, imported 100,000 pounds of the shrub, known as "hule." The bark when removed yielded about 18 per cent of rubber, which was considered equal to the best grade of "centrals." Because of the expense of transportation and treatment the experiment was not repeated.

In 1896 Guillermo Vogel, of Mexico City, sent samples of the shrub and rubber from it to manufacturers in the United States, but they attracted little attention. Germans in Mexico endeavored to interest American capital in the extraction of the gum in the late nineties with little success. That some of the shrub or bark was sent to Germany is certain, but the trade heard nothing of it.

Development of Extraction Processes

In 1899 William Prampolini, an Italian, took out a patent for extracting guayule by solvents. His apparatus was constructed at Monterrey, Mexico, but was only experimental. Two years later the Bergner process was patented in Mexico, and this was followed by a large number of patents for extraction processes, some practical and some otherwise, and for several years afterwards applications for patents for this purpose were numerous.

In 1903 a small factory was established at Jimulco, Mexico, by Adolpho Marx.

In 1905 a factory in Germany, backed by large financial interests, did a successful business extracting the guayule from the shrub, which was gathered in Mexico, baled, and shipped to Germany. The Mexican Government, however, placed an export duty of 15 pesos per ton on the shrub, which, with the cost of gathering and transportation, rendered the industry unprofitable.

Beginning in 1902, certain American capitalists financed a series of experiments that led to an invention by William A. Lawrence, by which, in 1904, rubber was extracted by a mechanical process, and fifty pounds were shipped to the United States. This was the real beginning of the extraction of guayule on a commercial basis in Mexico, and in 1906 it began to be used in quantity. Factories established in the States of Durango, Coahuila, San Luis Potosi, and in Texas soon produced large quantities of rubber. Improvements in the process of extraction tended to produce superior grades, and the guayule industry was fully established on a profitable basis. The rival companies, though strongly competing, were able to secure good prices and the question of a supply of the shrub became important. This led to the purchase of large tracts where the shrub was plentiful and the erection of extraction plants in many little-known sections of Mexico.

In 1907 the leading producers were companies briefly designated as the Continental, the Madero, and the Anglo-Mexicana. The Continental-Mexican Rubber Co. had its principal plant at Torreon, its other factories being at Saltillo, Ocampo, Gomez Palacio, and La Grunidora. It had at that time acquired great tracts of guayule-producing land. The Madero family were the principal owners of the Compañia Explotadora Coahulense, S. A., with headquarters at Parras, Coahuila, and other plants at Las Delicias, Cuartros Cienegas, and Vanegas. They also owned or controlled great tracts of shrub-producing land. The third largest interest was the Compañia Explotadora de Caucho Mexicana, with factories at Saltillo and Jimulco. There were also ten or a dozen other smaller concerns. From 1910 the production increased to a remarkable extent, though the revolutions of recent years in Mexico interferred seriously with the industry.

Origin of the Name

The name guayule, guayhule, or huayule, comes from the Spanish *hay* and Indian *hule*, or "rubber yielder." In Durango it is called *yerba de hule;* and in San Luis Potosi it is called *yule;* also called *jiguhite* near Saltillo, and sometimes *copaline*.[1] Prampolini calls it *yerba del negro* or *mariola*, by which last name it is widely known, though *mariola* rightly means a kindred species (*Parthenium incanum* H. B. K.)

Dr. Seler, of Berlin, however, questions Endlich's idea that guayule=*hay* (has or there is) and *hule* (rubber); *hayhule*=rubber bearer. Seler says it is from two Indian words, *quauh* (wood, tree, or forest) and *olli* (rubber), thus *guauholli*=wood rubber. (Der Tropenflanzer, Sept., 1905, p 540.) This view has the support of Prof. Francis E. Lloyd,[2] who believes in its Aztec origin.

Description of the Guayule Shrub

The *Parthenium argentatum* Gray, is the only present rubber producer found among the composites. It is a woody shrub of spreading habit, naturally growing much branched. If the branches die away at the base, a distinctly treelike form is assumed. Large plants may acquire a spread or height of 3 feet or more, but such individuals are of advanced age, probably not less than 40 or 50 years old. The small leaves are greenish, silvery gray, as also are the younger twigs, which, as the age of the axis advances, change to light and then to dark ashy gray. The winter appearance of the plant is strikingly different from the summer appearance. In the winter the leaves, save those forming small clusters at the tips of the twigs, have fallen, leaving these bare. In summer the new growths are clothed with leaves of maximum size in which the green color is more apparent. At this time the flowers are borne in loose clusters on slender stems and crown the plant with a profusion of small yellow blossoms. These are arranged in heads, each head resembling a small daisy and capable of forming at most five seeds. Usually some of these do not develop. A curious manner of development results in the association with the seed of a large amount of chaff.

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[1] The Economic Importance of Guayule, by Dr. Rud. Endlich, Der Tropenpflanzer, May, 1905, p. 233.

[2] Guayule, a Rubber Plant of the Chihuahuan Desert, by Francis E. Lloyd, p. 5.

A plant that is not a rubber producer, the mariola (*Parthenium incanum* H. B. K.), grows often side by side with the *argentatum* and is mistaken for it. To prevent confusion, Dr. A. Stapf prepared the following comparison:

Parthenium Argentatum

A small shrub with a short stem and very numerous, much divided branches, from less than 1 foot to over 3 feet high; woody persistent branches, short, more or less gnarled, covered with a rather smooth dark gray bark, young shoots silvery gray all over.

Leaves lanceolate, acute entire, or more often with 1 to 8 coarse acute teeth or lobes, ½ inch long, 2 to 6 inches wide, densely covered with a fine silvery gray tomentum, gradually narrowed into an often long and slender petiole.

Flower heads subsessile, subglobose, 2 lines in diameter, 3 to 7 in a cluster; clusters at the ends of 2 or 3, rarely more; slender branches, collected into a very imperfect corymb, rarely solitary.

Involucre silky pubescent; outer bracts broadly heraceous on the back.

Parthenium Incanum

A small shrub 1 to 2 feet high, much branched; woody persistent branches, elongate, slender, covered with a somewhat rough bark, cracking longitudinally; young shoots finely whitish or grayish wooly.

Leaves obovate to obovate-oblong in outline, crenate (the smaller) to deeply pinnatilobed, ½ to 1 inch long (rarely more), ⅓ to¾ inch wide, lobes 1 to 2 on each side, entire or the terminal crenate, all very obtuse, the whole leaf densely covered with a white, wooly tomentum when young, then grayish; petiole very short.

Flower heads shortly peduncled, or subsessile, 2 lines in diameter in terminal, often much branched corymbs 1 to 4 inches in diameter, branches slender.

Involucre finely villous; outer bracts slgihtly herbaceous on the back, above the middle.

Quite recently another species, discovered by Prof. F. E. Lloyd, has been named *Parthenium Lloydii*. Prof. H. H. Bartlett thus describes the new species, emphasizing the differences between it and the *Parthenium argentatum* as follows:

In the *Parthenium argentatum* the monopodial growth of the seedling is terminated by the development of the first inflorescences. Extension of the stem system takes place at the base of the well-differentiated peduncle, by the growth at that point of two or three branches, whose growth is in turn terminated by inflorescences. As a result of this sharp delimitation of leafy stem and peduncle, the branching of old plants is closely and repeatedly divaricate. Grown plants are often finely symmetrical. In *Parthenium Lloydii* the branching is like that of the mariola (*P. incanum*). The stem is more slender than *P.* argentatum, and the leafly peduncle is not sharply delimited.

Well up toward the inflorescence it bears short leafy spurs which elongate after the closing of the flowering season. A grown plant of the *P. Lloydii* is therefore characterized by intricate interweaving of branches. In herbarium specimens the striking difference between the two specimens lies in the form of the leaves, which in *P. argentatum* are relatively only half as wide as in *P. Lloydii* and rather deeply laciniate, whereas in *P. Lloydii* they are typically sparsely dentate or denticulate.

In the type material of *P. Lloydii* the pappus awns are slightly incurved toward the base, but diverge at the apex. In most material of *P. argentatum* the awns curve away from one another at the base and are somewhat incurved at the apex. This distinction pointed out by Prof. Lloyd does not seem to hold throughout the large series of specimens of *P. argentatum* in the Gray and the National Herbaria, but in view of McCallum's recent report that the guayule consists of as many as 125 segregable elementary species, the occasional inapplicability of this character is not to be wondered at. The curvature of the pappus may serve to distinguish *P. Lloydii* from certain segregates but not from others.

Rubber Contest

Guayule is distinct from most other rubber-producing plants in that its bark contains no latex, rubber being in the cellular tissue of the epidermis and to a small extent in the branches and leaves, the blossoms being without traces of rubber. The amount of rubber in the topmost branches is very slight, but increases toward the roots. The bark also contains resins and essential oils, which decrease the value of the rubber. Fairly dry plants subdivide into the following weights:

	Per cent.
Wood	47.0
Bark	44.5
Leaves	8.5

According to Whittlesey (1905, p. 5), guayule plants contain rubber as follows:

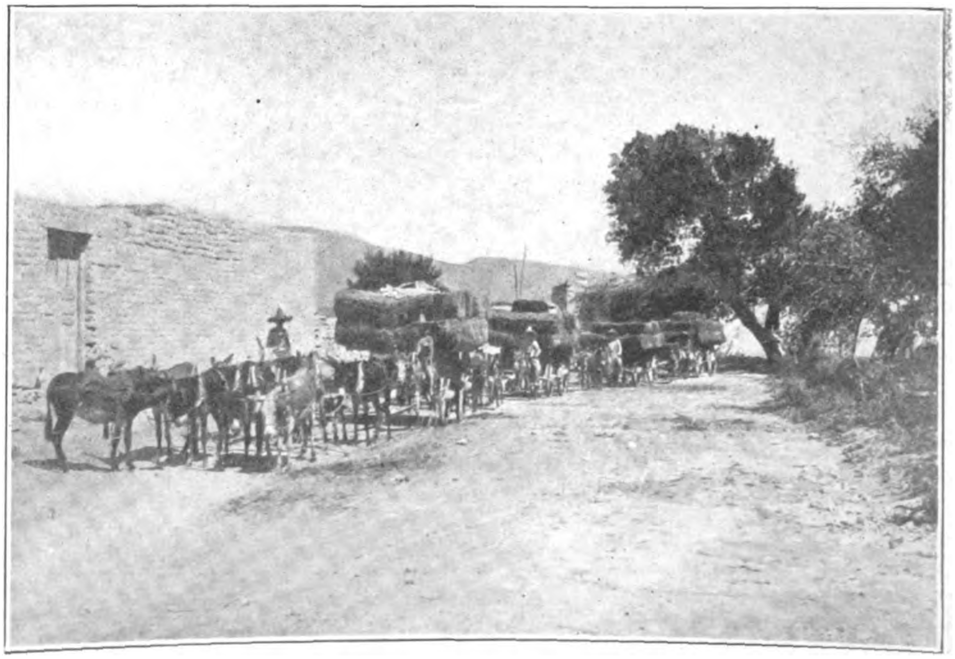
	Per cent.
Trunk bark	21.4
Root bark	19.5
Branches and leaves	9.7
Trunk wood	Nil.
Root wood	1.7

The yield of marketable rubber from the wild plants varies according to the condition of the plants and the process of extraction employed. The extraction runs from 6 per cent for experiments with average Texas guayule to 15 per cent for some of the highest grade of Mexican, a fair average yield equaling 12 per cent of the weight of the moderately dry plant.

Habitat of Guayule—Parasitic Enemies

Guayule at its best is found growing on the central Mexican plateau in great quantities. The district is nearly rainless and is very sparsely populated by a race partly Indian, partly Spanish. The region is practically grassless and contains no large trees, being a typical desert country. The alkali earth which is found over most of the plateau is in reality a rich soil, needing only sufficient water to make of the region a very fertile one.

The guayule is indigenous in a comparatively small area in southwestern Texas and northern Mexico. It may be bounded as follows: From the western extremity of Presidio County, Tex., the line runs somewhat west of south till it reaches the northern boundary of Durango, Mexico, near Santa Barbara, Chihuahua; then southeast parallel with the Mexican Central Railway about 100 kilometers (62



Wagon Train of Guayule Shrub Arriving From the Desert at Quatro Cienegas miles). Beyond the State of Durango the boundary runs still farther east, curving northward again not far from San Luis Potosi. The one hundred and first meridian marks roughly the eastern boundary, lying somewhat west of it till beyond Saltillo, where the line then curves slightly west of north, reaching the eastern limit in Texas at Langtry. The northern limit is marked approximately by Fort Stockton. The total area is about 130,000 square miles, a large part of which is in the Chihuahuan Desert. This area varies in altitude from 2000 to 10,000 feet above sea level, and the most important acreage is not much above 6000 to 6500 feet.

According to Lloyd,[1] guayule has few parasitic enemies, either vegetable or animal. Of the former are two species of fungi, the *Puccunia parthenii* and the dodder (*Cuscuta* sp.). Of the latter there are Coccidæ that attack the tap root. There is also a scale, *Targionia dearnessi* Ckll., which attacks roots. The leaves are sometimes attacked by a gall insect, and there is a bark-boring beetle, the *Pitgophthorus nigricans* Bland.

Gathering and Transporting the Shrub

Although the more important guayule districts command good railway facilities, there are large areas whose exploitation is difficult on account of the lack of means of transportation. These difficulties are mainly due to the fact that water for the pack animals cannot be found on these desert lands.

The gathering is done under contract by natives, who simply pull the plant and load it on the back of burros. Is is then carried to a central station, where it is baled by ordinary hay balers. These bales are loaded upon large wagons, which are drawn across the desert by teams of mules, often 12 to 14 to the team. The cost of transporting the crude material is not great. A burro driver gathers the loads for two or three animals, each carrying an average load of 165 pounds. For an entire day's journey (12 kilometers and return) and three loads (495 pounds) the transportation charges per ton of crude material would be, say, $2.50 to $3. For long distances, however, the cost sometimes runs as high as $12.50 per ton.

Prices of Shrub and Cost of Extracted Rubber

The price of dried guayule plants, including charges, began at $7.50 a ton. Later, when several competing enterprises erected factories, the price rose to $15 and $20 per ton, according to the distance between the places of origin and the station or works. During the "boom" growing guayule was bought unharvested at $30 gold per ton in the field and up to $50 gold per ton delivered at the factory. A fair average of the cost of guayule shrub to the leading concerns was about $30 gold per ton c. i. f. factory, allowing for shrinkage until used, which must be within 60 days of cutting to prevent deterioration of the rubber.

Calculating the high cost of coal and water, it was estimated that the rubber could be extracted and freighted to New York and sold there at a cost of 20 to 25 cents per pound. This included all costs, taxes, traveling options, etc., but not royalties on processes used.

Estimating the Supply of Shrub

The supply of guayule in its territory is very unevenly distributed. In most parts the plants are isolated, growing sometimes in large and often in small numbers among other plants on mountain inclines rich in lime. At rare intervals small tracts are found where it predominates. The following estimate was made by Endlich:

> An estimate of the average supply per hectare (2.47 acres) is very difficult to make, both on account of the uneven distribution of the growth and of the great differences in individual plants. In favorable territory I have on several occasions counted 30 to 40 plants to an area of 100 square meters, which would mean a total supply of 3000 to 4000 plants per hectare. The difference in size and weight are so great that in places where the plants are small and grow close together 10 plants have only the weight of 1 kilo (2.2 pounds), while in the best territory some of the trees weight as much as 3 kilos each. The average weight will not exceed 500 grams (1.1 pounds) per plant. Estimates of the guayule supply in large areas vary from 500 to 800 kilos per hectare, but the distance between the different places where the plants are found are often considerable and must be taken into consideration. The territory containing the more important places of supply includes a total area of about 75,000 square kilometers (about 29,000 square miles).
>
> It is even more difficult to approximate the total supply of crude material. Let us assume that in the area of 75,000 square kilometers, comprising the districts where the guayule plant is principally found, one-tenth actually contains a supply; this would mean a territory of 750,000 hectares. If we figure the output as one-half ton per hectar, we get a total supply of 375,000 tons, which, at the rate of 7 to 10 per cent rubber, represent a total of 26,250 to 37,500 tons of rubber.

(*Continued on page* 41)

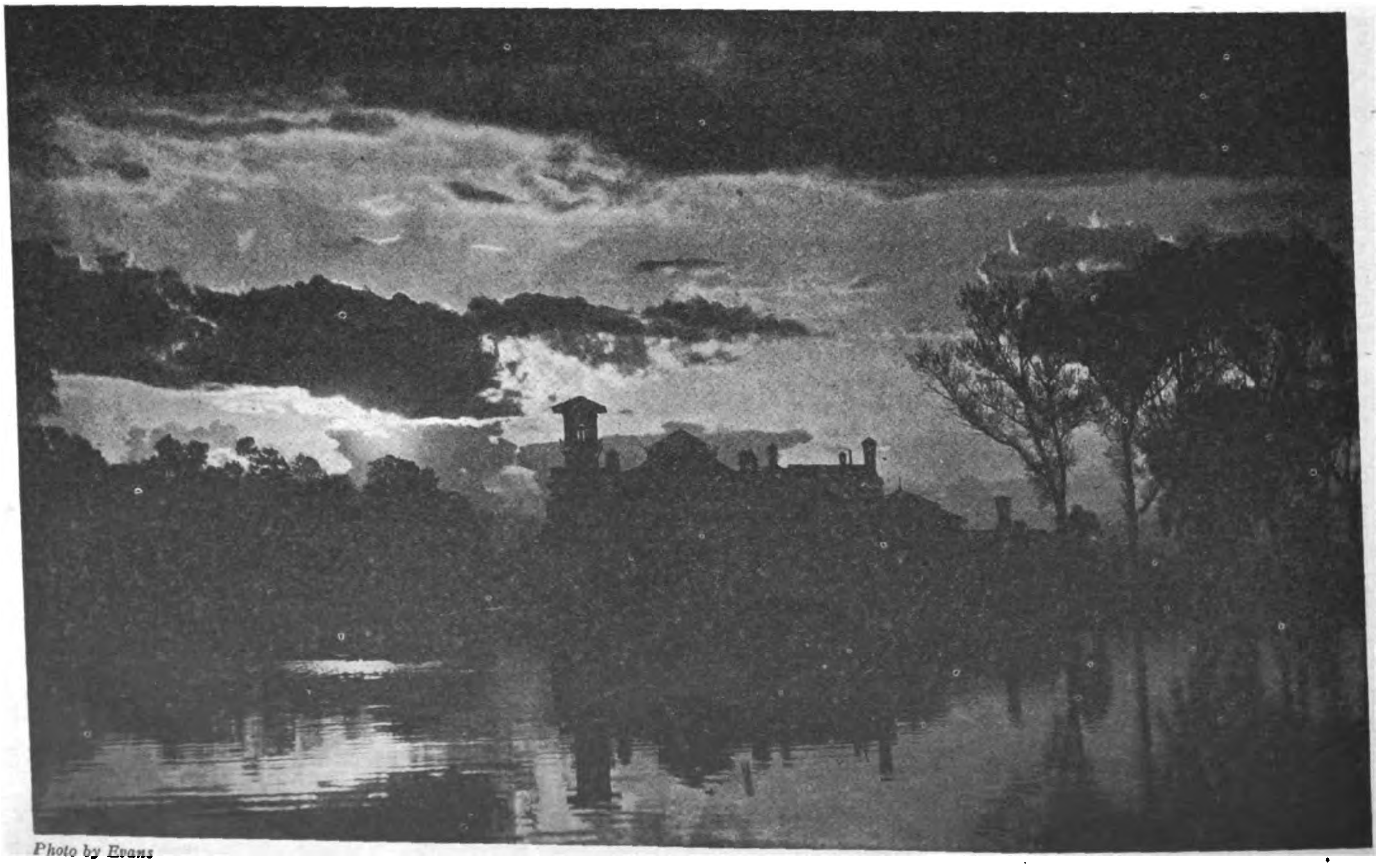


Photo by Evans

The Popular Country Club

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[1] Guayule, a Plant of the Chihuahuan Desert,

The Truth About Mexico

One Periodical Which Has a Very Clear View as to the Situation—Those Who Desire Intervention

(From *Civilization.*)

IN ALL the controversy about Mexico during the past five years the finest thing which we have heard was a statement made by Daniel Poling at St. Paul, Minn., last July. "Mexico needs no conqueror, and too long has she been exploited. Bound, beggared and bleeding, Mexico waits for an international Good Samaritan."

We have heard much about Mexican hatred of Americans, of Mexican treachery, and Mexican cruelty. Do we ever ask the reason? Are there two sides to this question? All his life the writer of this article has been a student of international affairs, and he tries to get at the truth concerning every misunderstanding between nations. What is the truth about Mexico?

A few facts which cannot be controverted may give us a better view concerning our southern neighbors. Let us remember that the human race is about the same the world over and most of the boasted superiority of one race over another is merely an assumption without any real foundation.

A few years ago Mexico was a prosperous nation of 16,000,000 people, mostly of Indian blood. The President, Porfirio Diaz, was part Indian, and he had ruled longer than most of the old world monarchs.

Outwardly the country was a republic, but in reality Diaz was an absolute monarch. He ruled with an iron hand. He was a man of great natural ability and a shrewd diplomat.

His policy was very simple. He enlisted all bandits and robbers on his side as soldiers, making it more profitable to serve him than to fight him, and far less dangerous. As advisers and helpers he called to his aid a few great Mexican land owners, and if any man of prominence opposed him that man did one of three things, *i. e.,* changed his mind, died, or committed some crime which sent him to the dungeon. The poor peones or laborers who formed the bulk of the population were rarely taken into account.

Mexico is a country of vast natural resources. Despite the fact that for four hundred years a constant stream of mineral wealth has flowed out of Mexico her undeveloped mines are a vast treasure house. There is gold, silver, copper, petroleum, precious stones, great forests, and a fertile soil. Diaz granted concessions to foreigners. Americans, Germans, Englishmen, and other Europeans could almost have things for the asking. Outside of a few great families there was nothing for a native Mexican. Diaz did this in order to gain the support of foreign governments to bolster up his own régime.

The poor Indians were exploited as slaves under what was known as the peonage system, and the Diaz promoters came to this country with the special inducement that there would be no labor trouble if American investors came to Mexico. Eye witnesses who have lived in Mexico have assured me that the tales of barbarity and cruelty reported by John Kenneth Turner and others did not exaggerate the real conditions. Of all offenders the Americans were said to be the worst.

At length human nature could stand it no longer and Mexicans resorted to their ancient custom of revolution. Diaz was driven out of the country and Madero became President. Madero was assassinated and Mexico has had revolution and anarchy since. From the days of Madero down to the present moment our policy has been anything but helpful.

The one thing which this government should have done was to recognize the strongest and most democratic faction, furnish supplies, and give it the moral support of this nation.

We complain that Mexicans have killed Americans. This is true, but do we ever hear of Americans killing Mexicans? An American who has lived long on the border estimates that five Mexicans are killed for every American, and he adds: "If I was a Mexican and got such treatment as I have seen Americans give Mexicans I would shoot every damned Gringo on sight."

A newspaper man who has been on the border says that ten Mexicans have been killed for every American. Our papers say very little about Americans killing sixty Mexicans at San Geronimo when they shot up the town.

Miss Clementina Butler, the American teacher, told me that she has never been able to explain to the Mexicans why it was not war when our battleships killed several hundred Mexicans at Vera Cruz.

The real truth of the matter and the cause of most of the trouble is that such men as William Randolph Hearst, Senator Fall, and the Guggenheims want Mexico.

When Jim Fiske and Jay Gould plundered the small investors of America their first step was to legalize their steal. This is exactly what the American exploiters are trying to do in Mexico.

The total national wealth of Mexico is $7,000,000,000. Americans have secured $4,000,000,000 of this wealth, according to financiers.

American financiers have more money invested in Mexico than the Mexicans themselves have—$264,582,758 more.

In the ownership of Mexico we find the real menace to the peace between Mexico and the United States.

American capitalists are desperately attempting to have the flag follow their investments.

They who own Mexico are the ones who want war.

Our first figures are unofficial, but such as are put forth by the financial agencies. It is said that Americans own two dollars of Mexican wealth for every dollar owned by native Mexicans.

Now do you see what the Mexicans are fighting for? They are fighting to save their own country from the great land owners of their own race and the greedy capitalists of America and Europe. At last the peones have awakened and are fighting to hold Mexico for the Mexicans.

We do not like to have bandits and raiders run over on our side of the line, but let us remember the days when old Geronimo and his Apaches used to raid Mexico whenever they felt like it, and the whole United States Army could not stop them.

We are not ready to trade American blood for the profits of American promoters, nor to promote another war like the one of which General U. S. Grant said, "One of the most unjust ever waged by a stronger against a weaker nation."

An Unexpected "Blow in"

With a rush of oil and a roar of gas, the Aguila Oil Company's drilling well on Lot 163 Chinampa, in the southern fields, "blew in" Monday afternoon at 5:30 o'clock. As this is written the well is flowing wild, producing a volume of oil estimated at around 50,000 barrels. Officials of the company hurried to the scene Tuesday morning at daylight from Tampico, while Homer Craig, general field superintendent, who makes his headquarters at Potrero del Llano, was promptly notified and soon reached the place, assuming active charge of the operations which, it is hoped, will result in soon shutting the well in.

The blowing in of the well was entirely unexpected. Unofficial advices place the depth at which the incident occurred at 1940 feet, which is about 60 feet shallower than is the nearest well. The location of the big well on Lot 163 offsets the Huasteca's well of about 15,000 barrels on a fraction of the same lot, and it is virtually offsetting the big wells of the Texas Company, the Island Oil Company and the Mexican Gulf Oil Company, three of which were completed around 2000 feet, and two of which were over 2100 feet.

The Aguila well had 10-inch casing cemented at around 1300 feet, and it was carrying the 8-inch in the hole. A gate valve was on the 10-inch, and it is presumed an effort will be made to drop the 8-inch down so this gate can be closed. This is mere surmise, however, among the oil men who are discussing the well (and all of them are), as no definite information has yet reached here as to just what plan Superintendent Craig intends pursuing. He is a man of wide experience, however, and will take the proper course in the premises.

According to the data in hand, the coming in of the well was unexpected to a degree. There was no work being done in the hole when the incident occurred, the tools having been withdrawn while the boiler fires were being changed from one field boiler to the other. The first intimation that anyone had that the well was coming in was the rush of gas up through the casings, which, in turn was quickly followed by the oil which increased in volume, while rocks, etc., from the bottom of the hole showered around like shrapnel. Messages were quickly telephoned to Tampico announcing the fact that the well had come in and was running wild, and steps were taken to get it under control.—*Tampico Tribune.*

Agrarian Reform in Mexico

Text of Decree Under Which Community Lands Are Being Restored

THE plan of agrarian reform devised after long consideration by the First Chief and his advisers was formally enunciated in Vera Cruz on January 8, 1915, and since that time has been put into effect as rapidly as possible consistent with the many difficulties that had to be surmounted. The restoration of the "ejidos," or community lands, was naturally the first, as it was the easiest to carry out. The expropriation of lands for the establishment of new pueblos with community lands was next, and is being effected as rapidly as possible, though the process is necessarily slower.

In order that foreigners may acquaint themselves with the agrarian reform plan, the full text of the decree is given herewith:

Land Decree

Issued by First Chief Carranza on January 8, 1915, at Vera Cruz.

ARTICLE 1. The following are hereby annulled:

I. All the sales of lands, water rights and forests pertaining to townships, small settlements, congregations or communities, made by political prefects, Governors of States or any other local authorities, contrary to the provisions of the law of June 25, 1856; and all other laws and provisions relating thereto.

II. All concessions, composition agreements or sales affecting lands, water rights and forests, made by the Departments of Fomento, Hacienda or by any other Federal authorities, since the 1st of December, 1876, to date, by which community, partition or any other kind of lands, pertaining to townships, small settlements, congregations or communities, may have been illegally invaded and occupied.

III. All proceedings relative to survey and demarkation carried into effect during the period of time mentioned in the preceding section by companies, judges or other authorities of the States or federation, by which lands, water rights or forests within a community, partition or any other kind of lands, belonging to townships, small settlements, congregations or communities, may have been illegally invaded or occupied.

ART. 2. The division or distribution which may have been made lawfully among neighbors of townships, small settlements, congregations or communities, and in which there may be some flaw, shall only be annulled whenever it is so requested by two-thirds of the neighbors or their representatives.

ART. 3. The towns which may need, not having them, their community lands, or which may be unable to secure their restoration, because of their lack of title, difficulty of identification, or because they may have been legally disposed of, shall be able to secure a sufficient portion of land to reconstruct their community lands in accordance with the necessities of their townships, the National Government expropriating the necessary lands to that effect from those immediately adjoining the townships in interest.

ART. 4. For the purpose of this and other agrarian laws which may be enacted, in accordance with the political program of the Revolution, there shall be created:

I. A National Agrarian Commission of nine persons, who, presided over by the Secretary of Fomento, shall have the powers which this and subsequent laws may provide.

II. A local agrarian commission of five persons for each State and Territory of the Republic, which will have the powers provided by law.

ART. 5. The special executive committees shall depend in each State from the respective agrarian commission of the locality, which, in its turn, shall be subordinate to the National Agrarian Commission.

ART. 6. The requests for the restoration of lands pertaining to townships which may have been invaded or occupied illegally, referred to in Article I of this law, shall be presented in the States directly to the Governors, and in the Territories and the Federal District, to the higher political authorities, but in the event that lack of communication or a state of war would hamper the action of the local governments, the petitions may also be submitted to the military chiefs, who may be authorized especially to that effect by the person in charge of the executive power. These petitions shall be accompanied by the documents upon which they are based. There shall be presented also before the same authorities petitions relating to land concessions in order to allot community lands to the townships which may not have them, or which may not have sufficient title to justify their rights of recovery.

ART. 7. The proper authority, in view of the petitions which may be filed, shall consult the local agrarian committee regarding the justice of the recovery and upon the convenience, necessity and extension of the concessions of lands to make the allotment of community lands, and shall decide whether or not the restoration or concession should remain. In the case that it does, the record shall be sent to the proper private executive committee, to the end that, when the lands are identified, outlined and surveyed, the same shall be provisionally delivered to the interested parties.

ART. 8. The decisions of the Governors or military chiefs shall be considered provisional, but they shall be immediately executed by the private executive committee, and the record with all its documents and other data which may be considered necessary, shall be afterwards sent to the local agrarian commission, which, in its turn, shall send it to the National Agrarian Commission with a report thereon.

ART. 9. The National Agrarian Commission shall decide upon the approval, rectification or amendment of the decisions brought to its attention, and in view of the resolution passed by the person in charge of the executive power of the nation, shall sanction the recovery or allotments which may have been decided, issuing the proper titles.

ART. 10. Persons who may consider themselves injured by the decision of the person in charge of the executive power of the nation have the right to resort to the courts within one year from the date of the above-mentioned resolutions, but when this term has expired, no claim shall be admitted. In the case that the claims refer to recoveries and the person in interest obtains a judicial decision declaring that the restoration is made in favor of a township, the decision shall only bind the Government of the nation to the extent of giving the indemnity which may correspond. Within the same term of one year the owners of expropriated lands shall appear and demand the indemnities which shall be paid to them.

ART. 11. A reglamentary law shall determine the condition in which the lands restored or adjudged in behalf of townships shall remain, and the manner and time in which they shall be distributed among the neighbors, who, in the meantime, shall enjoy their possession in common.

ART. 12. The Governors of States, or, as the case may be, the military chiefs of each region authorized by the person in charge of the executive power, shall at once appoint a local agrarian commission and the private executive committees.

Transitory Article.—This law shall go into effect from the date of its publication, so long as the present civil strife does not end. Military authorities shall cause the present law to be published and posted in each of the cities and places they may occupy.

Sisal From Mexico

Mexico's exports of sisal during 1917 were the smallest in five years, being 38 per cent less than in 1916. The year's shipments aggregated 733,832 bales (bale averages 375 pounds), or 103,118 bales less than in 1913, 231,030 less than in 1914, 215,807 less than in 1915, and 457,601 less than in 1916. The value in 1917 was about $19,612,000 American currency.

Of the 733,832 bales exported last year 380,337 were shipped to New Orleans, 171,147 to New York, 47,976 to Plymouth, 109,414 to Galveston, 10,527 to Boston, and 11,827 to New Bedford. Cuba (Habana) took 2,602 bales, and the remaining 2 bales went to Vera Cruz. The average price received in Mexico for the 1917 sisal was 0.31 peso per kilo, or 7 cents United States currency per pound.

The prediction that the exports of 1918 would fall below even those of 1917 does not appear to have been justified in view of the receipts of 18,185 tons of sisal in January of this year in United States ports, which is equal to the largest month's receipts in 1917. The American consul at Progreso, Yucatan, reported on March 25, 1918, the shipments of sisal from Progreso in February, these showing an increase of 8,475 bales over the exports for the corresponding month of last year. The stocks of sisal held in Progreso on February 1, 1918, and the receipts during the month were:

	Bales.
Stocks in Progreso on February 1, 1918	163,434
Receipts by railway during February	34,775
Receipts by road vehicles	255
Receipts by water:	
Cilam	600
Mina de Oro	1,915
Miramar	1,319
San Benito	935
San Crisanto	310
Chavijan	278
Total	203,821
Shipped during February	37,077
On hand March 1, 1918	166,744

In addition to the stocks held in Progreso there were reported to be 244,285 bales of sisal in Merida and 15,470 bales in Campeche, making a total of 426,499 bales held in the State of Yucatan on March 1, 1918.

Two Turkish citizens were recently deported from Mexico under Article 33 of the National Constitution, which confers the right of such deportation upon the National Executive whenever any foreigner shall by his conduct classify himself as being "pernicious." In this case the deported persons had been engaged in political machinations of a character dangerous to the Republic.

Yucatan's Agrarian Law

Method by Which Anyone, Native or Foreign May Secure a Tract

PURSUANT to the decree issued in January, 1915, outlining the plan of agrarian reform proposed by the Constitutionalist Government, Governor Salvador Alvarado, of the State of Yucatan, began active measures for carrying it out. He announced that he would commence by re-establishing the "public commons," or "lands of the people," which should be "restored and granted to the inhabitants who are older than seventeen years, natives or foreigners, providing they cultivated them." He also announced that the Government of the State had not only a platonic interest in distributing the lands to the people, but that its principal object was to have the distributed lands put practically into active production. To this end the Government proposed to advance money to small property owners when in need thereof, and would in other methods assist them.

The general regulations to be observed in the allotment of lands were set forth as follows:

"Every Mexican or foreigner residing in the State, older than 17 years of age, has the right, provided that he wishes to dedicate himself personally to cultivating it, to possess a parcel of land, from which, by means of work, he may be able to obtain sufficient in order to subsist with his family, succeeding by such means in securing his economic independence and the necessary comforts for living peacefully, according to his social condition.

"Whatever foreigner who desires so to do, will be able to acquire a rural property in the state, in conformity with these by-laws, and will be considered like a native, for the results of the same. The lots which foreigners receive must be alternated with those of the Mexicans.

"The mercantile and civil societies formed for working in agriculture, that request lands, will be considered as individuals, and will be able to hold the right only to one lot, being subjected to all the conditions of the law, and provided that the said societies are governed by the laws of the Republic.

"In the State there will not be given a lot of land to any person who possesses any country property in any other part of the Republic.

"In the event that there are superfluous lots within the common, they shall be left to the service of the community in the character of pastoral ground, with the reservation of being able to distribute them as they are requested.

"The land for distribution, already divided into lots, will be valued by the tax-list, adding to its initial intrinsic value the cost of measurement, the said valuation serving as a base for the tax and amortization of which the following articles treat.

"The land distributed, not cultivated, will pay the annual rent, corresponding to 2½ per cent of the value defined in the preceding article, which, for the operation of these bylaws, will be called "contribution of 2½ per cent."

"During the first ten years of occupation, the possessors must introduce gradual improvements of landed immovable property and elements of husbandry, up to an amount at least equal to 50 per cent. of the intrinsic value of the land. These improvements will consist of fences, wells, houses, machines, instruments of labor, etc.

"When the proprietor of a lot does not furnish the contribution of 2½ per cent with the completion of the year, or does not introduce the improvements indicated in Article 50, with the same length of time, he shall forfeit all rights to his lot, so that the Government may assign it to another person who wishes and can cultivate it.

"Every contract of mortgage, rental or sale made by the occupants of the land distributed by the Government shall be of no effect. Finally, every operation for speculating with the land is prohibited, whether the ownership of the same be altered or modified in any way, except in cases expressly determined by this law.

"The distributed land is not attachable, nor is it subject to any intervention, judicial or administrative.

"The State will make every effort possible in order to urge the small farmers to form societies for education and which shall be co-operative for production and consumption. There has been demonstrated the utility of joining together to buy machines, useful for all, and which may not be within the capacity of one. It will direct them in order to organize them or reunite them around the rural schools in order to discuss and agree about their economical affairs, etc.

"The owner of a lot will be able to elect freely his heir among his antecedents or descendants in a direct line without limitation of rank, sex or order of birth; failing these, he may choose among his relatives of the same generation, to the sixth grade, and failing these, he may freely choose a stranger."

FISHES OF THE WEST COAST

(Concluded from page 24)

Salt Water Bream, and Butterfish

There are two varieties of the rudder fish in these waters, but the chopa or salt water bream (*Kyphosus elegans*) *is the only one* worthy of note. It grows to a length of 18 inches and to a weight of 5 pounds. They are well flavored but not very plentiful.

The pompanos are well represented here by 10 species, not including 2 species of butterfish. Some are new to science and some, according to Professors Jordan and Evermann, belong to the Atlantic only, and must have come through the Panama Canal; others are well known. Among them are the cavella or toro (*Carangus hippos*) to 30 pounds; the yellow-tail or amber fish, to 40 pounds; the Pacific moonfish or caballo (*Selene aerstedii*) to 12 inches; the common moonfish or jorobado (*Vomer septipinnis*) to 12 inches; the round pompano or palometa (*Trachinotus kennedyi*) to 27 inches; the silvery pompano (*Trachinotus* argenteus) to 7 inches; the gaff-topsail pompeno or paloma (*Trachinotus palometa*) to 7 inches; and the big-eyed scad known in Hawaii as akule, in Samoa as atule, and in Mexico as the cocinero (*Trachurops crumenopthalmus*) to 7 inches.

Of the butterfish or fiatolas we have two species, the poppy fish or California pompano (*Palameta simillima*) and another that is probably *palometa media* With the exception of the toro, which is dark meated and not very choice, all of the above fish are delicious, delicately flavored pan fish.

Spanish Mackerel

Among the smaller or pan fish one of the most popular and to the taste of many equal to the pompano is the mojarra. There are five distinct species: White mojarra or broad shad (*Xystaema cinereum*); mojarra china (*Gerres lineatus*) mojarra prieta or gray mojarra, mojarra Turca; and majorra jorobada. They range from 6 to 18 inches in length and are all delicately flavored, superior pan fish that would bring fancy prices in the United States, either fresh or iced.

The halfbeak, baloa, or pajarito (*Hyporamphus roberti*), is a smeltlike fish that grows to about a foot in length. They are excellent eating and should can well. Continuous schools of them miles in extent have been seen. When they enter the esteros to spawn in June, a seine could not be hauled by hand without first emptying out a part of the catch.

Another very valuable fish found in these waters is the chiro or big eyed herring, otherwise known as the piojo, Francesca, matajuelo real, or John-Mariggle (*Elops saurus*). They have caught up to 24 inches in length. The small ones make fine kippered herring and the large ones can be dried or smoked to good profit. They are very numerous, following up the immense schools of anchovies, shrimp, etc.

The Spanish mackerel is also plentiful. It is called here cero or sierra. The two principal species are *Scomberomorus maculatus* and *Scomberomorus sierra*. They range on both sides of the peninsular of Lower California and from Mazatlan south. They have been caught to 34 inches in length, are palatable, but dry in comparison with good Atlantic mackerel.

Sardines and Anchovies

Also countless millions of true sardines thrive in Mazatlan waters. The principal one here is the silverside (*Sardinella kowala*). In seven years fishing the writer has seen a few 4-inch fish, but they will average 3 inches when matured. The blue sardine or thread herring (*Sardinella episthonema*) is second only in numbers, and it is needless to say that here is superb canning material.

Anchovies are also abundant and bring good prices, salted and dried, dry salted in half barrels or pickled in brine. Two species are found—the big white anchovy or sardina bocona (*Anchovia macrolepidota*) to 8 inches in length, and the little western anchovy (*Anchovia delicatissima*) from 3 to 4 inches in length. Both enter the esteros (creeks) and lagoons in immense schools in December, January, and February, and again in April, May, and June.

Sharks are very abundant; seven species are common. The natives catch a great many on hand lines and with harpoons for the livers and fins. The livers are used for shark-liver oil, and the fins are dried for the Chinese trade, and always bring good prices. The bodies could be used for fertilizing material to good profit. They are sufficiently plentiful 16 having been taken in two hauls of a net when fishing in the surf for robalo. The hammerhead is probably the most plentiful.

Developing Lower California

Secretary Pastor Rouaix Will Investigate the Lands Which Former Concessionaires Have Forfeited

(NOTE.—The most extensive body of agricultural lands in the Territory adjoins the boundary between Mexico and the United States and is a continuation of the famous Imperial Valley of California. The result of Secretary Rouaix's investigations will be awaited with interest.—ED.)

MR. PASTOR ROUAIX, Secretary of Fomento and Agriculture, will leave in a few days for Lower California, accompanied by some of the chief employes of his office. The object of this journey, which is to travel over this territory, has been the cause of much speculation, based no doubt on the failure of several of the colonization schemes there.

Some time ago such large concessions were granted that colonization was not only impossible but impracticable. Four or five people or companies had secured a great part of the Territory by means of the moderate price of 7 cents a hectare (about one and one-half cents an acre in American gold). The favored few, who did not even comply with the simplest demands of colonization, centered their activities on profitable works, abandoning Lower California and leaving it to go from bad to worse.

After Mr. Rouaix had entered into the Secretaryship of Fomento and could acquaint himself with the manner in which the rich portion of the Territory had been partitioned, he declared the immediate forfeiture of the concessions for failure to comply with their terms and prepared to study the land that now, being free from all claims, gives great promise for the future of Mexico. Pressure of business had caused the postponement of the journey, but on this occasion the Secretary was able to undertake this important visit.

The four or five concessions that were forfeited by their own weight leave free more than ten million hectares (25,000,000 acres)—an astonishing quantity under any conception—that will return a large revenue to the nation.

The great territorial possessions placed in the hands of individuals who understood little of colonization but who knew much of profiting by what they secured, gave the most lamentable results to Lower California.

The lesson has been a hard one, but will result in a just and prudent division of the land in tracts that can be colonized and developed and so bring the desired national revenue.

Mr. Rouaix wishes to know personally the necessities of Lower California in order to learn the remedies that may be needed. Once the form of irrigation is decided on and the manner of colonization made practicable, he will study attentively those urgent questions that refer to the lands of the distant Peninsula, endeavoring to have it enter on that vigorous life such as it is entitled to on account of the marvelous riches of its soil.

Before going to Lower California Mr. Rouaix will visit some of the cities of the United States in order to purchase agricultural machinery, which will be shipped to the capital. Afterwards he will begin his tour through the extreme length of the Peninsula, concentrating on the study of the best irrigation methods, after which he will return to the capital.—*El Universal, Mexico City.*

Proposed Embargo on Pulque

The authorities have under consideration the placing of an absolute embargo upon the introduction and sale of pulque in the capital city. One reason for this is the salutary effect upon the classes which consume large quantities of the liquor, and the other is because the concerns handling it have uniformly committed gross frauds against the Government and have escaped paying more than a fraction of the just charges levied by law upon the importation of the beverage into the city. The amount paid has been insignificant, while the quantity of pulque introduced and sold has been enormous.

The Secretary of Hacienda has under consideration the inauguration of an establishment for the manufacture of sugar from the juice of the maguey plant, which at present is converted into pulque. This would prove beneficial in several directions—it would reduce intoxication, it would aid in alleviating the shortage of sugar in certain portions of the Republic, and it would give employment to a large force of operatives. The entire matter is being carefully studied by the President, with the prospect that in a short time a decree may be promulgated entirely forbidding the sale of pulque in the capital city.

Arrangements have been made for providing transatlantic steamers with coal at the port of Tampico, instead of at Vera Cruz, as in the past. The fuel is brought readily and quickly in quantity to the former place from the mines of Coahuila, and the supply available is unlimited. The people of Tampico are confident that in a brief period their port will surpass Vera Cruz in the amount of business transacted.

The total transactions of the Public Registry of Property and Commerce in Mexico City for the month of March were $8,721,632.92, while for January the total was $6,793,467.57 and for February $2,098,432.81. The increase in business transactions thus indicated is justly regarded as proof of the confidence of all classes in the stability of the present order.

A special commission has been sent to the port of Manzanillo to inspect the works that were wantonly and maliciously damaged by the Federals when they abandoned the place to the Constitutionalist armies, in order to determine the possibility of repairing them, or if it is necessary to rebuild them from the foundation.

Sugar Production in Mexico

From Bulletin of the United States Department of Agriculture

The area upon which sugar cane is grown in Mexico is located in 18 of the 27 States. Some of these States lie along the Pacific and Gulf slopes and others in the interior just south of Mexico City. The entire country is adapted to the growing of cane, except the higher altitudes in the mountain regions and the north-central States. Approximately one-half of the Mexican sugar is produced in two States—Morelos and Vera Cruz. Two other States of importance are Pueblo and Sinaloa. In the State of Morelos rainfall is insufficient and irrigation is necessary to provide sufficient moisture for the growing of crops. The lowlands along the coast are well adapted to the growing of cane, and as many as 10 crops may be harvested from one planting. In the coast regions very little cultivation is needed and the yield has been as high as 35 tons per acre. The sugar industry is in a backward state and very little modern machinery is in use. The old open-kettle process is most in use, which extracts only about 6 per cent of sugar per weight of cane. The area used for cane in 1872 was 6,061 acres, which increased to 174,823 acres in 1909. The production of cane increased from 1,535,047 tons in 1903-4 to 3,044,574 in 1906-7, and the farm value for these two years was approximately $8,000,000 and $22,000,000, respectively. The sugar produced decreased from 112,930 tons in 1903-4 to 102,931 in 1905-6, increased to 178,134 in 1910-11, decreased to 167,258 in 1911-12, to 143,000 in 1913-14, and to 121,000 in 1914-15. The percentage of sugar extraction per weight of cane produced decreased from 7.36 per cent in 1903-4 to 4.23 per cent in 1906-7. A small amount of sugar cane grown in Mexico has been sent to the United States. These exports amounted to 181 tons in 1903-4, 75 tons in 1905-6, 1,301 tons in 1909-10, and 75 tons in 1911-12.

The exports of sugar increased from 17,981 tons in 1903-4 to 42,600 in 1904-5, decreased to 4,643 in 1908-9, and increased to 26,546 in 1911-12. The imports have been less than the exports and increased from 1419 tons in 1903-4 to 5649 in 1907-8 and decreased to 1123 in 1911-12. During the nine years 1903-4 to 1911-12 the annual production of sugar was 125,499 tons, as compared with 14,651 tons exported and 2301 tons imported. The consumption of sugar annually for the same period averaged 113,149 tons, or 15.25 pounds per capita. The quantity of sugar produced in Mexico has increased more than threefold during the last 15 years. In 1898-99 the production was 55,000 tons, which increased to 178,000 in 1910-11, but, partly on account of the Revolution, the production decreased to 121,000 tons in 1914-15. During the five years 1898-99 to 1902-3 the annual production of sugar was 95,900 tons, which increased to 124,000 during the next five years, an increase of 29.4 per cent. During the five years 1908-9 to 1912-13 the annual production was 166,000 tons, an increase of 33.8 per cent over the preceding five years. The sugar produced is practically all raw, mostly in the form of small tablets or cakes.

Proposed Land Law

Submitted to the Legislature of the State of Queretaro for Discussion and Adoption

THE Agrarian Commission of the Legislature of the State of Queretaro has submitted for the consideration of that Local Chamber an extensive project of law which contemplates in an ample manner the regulation of Article 27 of the Constitution of the Republic, which regulation constitutes the Agrarian Law that is to be applied to all problems of that nature that are awaiting solution, as well as to those that may arise in the future.

The proposed law contains six chapters with 43 articles, some of which contemplate some very radical changes in the agrarian policy and would establish some very stringent provisions. Among the most important measures that it proposes are those that fix the maximum area of land that could be possessed by any one person at two hundred hectares (500 acres) of farming lands, and five hundred hectares (1250 acres) of first-class pasture lands, in the municipalities of Queretaro and San Juan del Rio, and a maximum area of three hundred hectares (750 acres) of farming lands and one thousand hectares (2500 acres) of pasture lands in the other districts of the State.

The commission that submits this project of law states that it has fixed those measures under the presumption that it is not possible to effect the division of the lands in one stroke, but that it should be carried on slowly. However, it expresses the opinion that once this first division is finished, a second law would be enacted for the subdivision of the farms, and so on, one after the other; that is, a series of laws that would carry to an end the work that it now begins.

Among other important points the law provides that all present land owners who possess more land than as indicated heretofore should, within two months of the enforcement of this law, inform the Government as to the area of the lands that they can work and as to how much they have in excess.

When some one requests the adjudication of a farm before the expiration of the time limit of two months to which the proprietor is entitled, and if the latter states that he desires to have this farm reserved, he shall keep it, but he cannot again select another distinct farm. Regarding the rest of the fractions, they shall definitely remain subject to denunciation and transfer at any time.

All surplus lands that are actually owned by any person, and which are in excess of the areas specified, are declared to be of public utility and may be transferred to those who may apply for them, according to the bases provided by this law.

The proprietors, when making private sales of their surplus lands, shall subject themselves to the bases fixed by Constitutional Article 27; but if the buyer accepts other conditions the sale can then be effected according to their agreement.

Another of the important points of the law is that which concerns the partition of the lands now under litigation. If any surplus land should be found under this condition, the suit shall continue after the partition, the amount of the sale to be kept in trust. The title will be issued by whoever may be in possession of the land, and the sale will be confirmed by the Government, when said land will be withdrawn from litigation, its value having been previously assured for the effects of the same litigation.

Some lengthy provisions follow, among which one of the principal provides that, upon the denunciation of a parcel of land those who are co-proprietors, co-possessors, co-heirs, contiguous owners, creditors, husbands or wives, and relatives of the first to the eighth grades, have the right to participate in the denunciation and adjudication of the same.

A very important point provided in this chapter is that which clearly states that the value of the farms will be that by which taxes are paid, the proprietor still having the right to demand an increase of up to 10 per cent, as an estimative value, provided that he has voluntarily agreed to the act of expropriation.

The owners of fractions shall acknowledge the total amount of the value of their holdings, the buyer to pay the interest of 5 per cent due annually, and amortizing annually from 3 to 5 per cent of the capital, according to agreement or to the decision of the judge. If the buyer should fail to make the payments when due, the farm may be transferred to another person, but in no case to its old proprietor, unless it may be that, after having recovered that farm, he still owns no more land than is legally allowed.

General View of the National Library, Mexico City

One of the Modern Residences of the Capital

For the purposes of the valuation of the surplus lands, meaning the lands for cultivation, according to quality, the material works of irrigation, maguey fields, and detailed valuation of the lands, there shall be constituted a board of experts, composed of a representative of the Government and a person from each party, which board, after the valuation has been effected in detail, shall see that the total thereof shall be the same as that fixed by the tax thereon, and the value that will be obtained in detail by the fraction that is being sold shall be the basis for the operation.

If any farm is under lease, the interest shall be paid divided in proportion among each fraction thereof. Its effect will be always enforced on all the fractions, and the new buyers shall pay under the terms as heretofore provided. That part of the payment that may belong to the creditor shall be handed to him, or it shall be deposited, whatever may be the case, until the amortization of the interest that is proportionately due from the parcel. The rest of the price thereof shall be paid to the proprietor who sold it. If the total amount of the debt due the creditor, who is also holder of the mortgage, is more than the value of the land, the latter alone is obliged to liquidate the amount that was fixed for it when its value was determined. If after the last tax valuation there have been effected any improvements, an estimate of these will be made by the experts, adding their value to that of the land as fixed by the tax.

The Government can transfer the farms that are surplus to those who may apply for them, provided that the possessor always refuses to divide it into fractions; or when he advances unfair conditions that may not be accepted by the buyer, or when the possessor is not residing in the State and has not empowered any one to look after his interests in the same entity.

The law also provides the proceedings that should be followed in the execution of denouncements, and also that all controversies will have the proceedings that the law provides, explaining that recourse to annulment can never be employed against the definite decisions that may be dictated under them. The trials will be effected within a period of time of not more than two months, except in cases of extraordinary importance or scope.

The owner of the land under partition shall sign the documents concerning the sale thereof, and if under any circumstances he refuses to do so, they shall be signed by the judge before legal witnesses or before a notary.

In regard to works of irrigation, etc., they shall remain in favor of the person who remains as owner of the farm, whereever they may be, if said owner so desires. If the water works are capable of irrigating more land than the farm where they exist, the adjoining farms shall have the right to make use of them.

Upon the division of a farming area, there shall be constructed the necessary roads for the use of the diverse fractions.

If after the period of two years the proprietors have not yet transferred the surplus of their lands, an increase of 20 per cent on their corresponding taxes will be levied against them on account of the surplus for the first year, and 10 per cent additional annually thereafter, in advance.

The expert who may act unlawfully shall be punished with one year in prison. He who pretends to make a division and continues to work his estate as a whole in an underhanded manner shall be fined 20 per cent of the value of his lands, which will be adjudicated to the denouncer, and the rest of his lands will be put on sale on account of the Government, there remaining in favor of the owner whatever they may bring after the expenses have been deducted.

Exportation of Metals

On the 22d of March President Carranza, by virtue of the powers granted him by the National Congress, issued the following decree which went into force at once and is now in full effect:

Article 1—The exportation of bars of silver or of gold and silver mixed is prohibited except by special permission in each case from the Secretary of the Treasury.

Article 2—For the exportation of ores and concentrates that contain gold and silver, the laws of the 27th of last September will be rigidly enforced.

Article 3—The exportation of gold bars, gold money, either of the country or foreign, and silver money is strictly prohibited.

Article 4—By previous arrangement with the Secretary of the Treasury permission for the exportation of silver pesos may be obtained if at the same time a quantity of gold metal of equal commercial value with the peso be imported for coinage in the mint.

Article 5—The Monetary Commission, in conformity with the Secretary of the Treasury, will acquire the bars of gold and silver that it believes necessary for its conservation or coinage in the mint.

Article 6—The importation of gold in bars and gold money, foreign or national, will be free from all consular duties.

PRODUCTION OF GUAYULE RUBBER

(*Continued from page* 34)

In 1906 a number of experts figured on the amount of shrub available for extraction. The following tabulation is based on their estimates and a selling price for crude rubber of 45 cents gold per pound:

Owners of shrub	Estimated yield of shrub	Estimated yield of rubber	Estimated profit, excluding royalties
	Metric tons	*Metric tons*	
No. 1	57,000	6,840	$3,009,600
No. 2	40,000	4,800	2,112,000
No. 3	10,000	1,200	528,000
No. 4	8,000	960	422,000
No. 5	27,000	3,240	1,425,000
No. 6	8,000	960	422,400
No. 7	3,000	360	158,400
No. 8	35,000	3,000	1,320,000
No. 9	20,000	2,400	1,056,000
No. 10	12,000	1,140	633,600
No. 11	8,000	960	422,400
No. 12 (scattered holdings)	47,000	5,640	2,481,600
Consumed to June, 1906	10,000	1,200	528,000
Permanently unavailable	25,000	....	....
Total	300,000	33,000	14,520,000

Regrowth in Wild Areas

In the first collection of the guayule shrub the plant was uprooted. To a certain extent some roots were broken off and formed new growths. If, however, instead of being pulled up the plant is cut off under the surface of the soil, the root that remains will, if rain falls within a reasonable time after the cutting, reproduce a good plant. The self-sown seeds grow slowly, several years showing only a thin one-fourth pound bush. Natural reproduction in the field therefore takes place in two ways, by seeds and by means of shoots (retones) which start up from the shallow-lying roots. Retones are relatively few in number, but their initial growth is rapid and they quickly produce flowers. Even the remaining portion of roots broken off where the plants are uprooted frequently produce new plants, and this after dying back quite a distance. Thus with reasonable care the existing guayule fields may be preserved.

One of the large operators advised the writer concerning regrowth in these words:

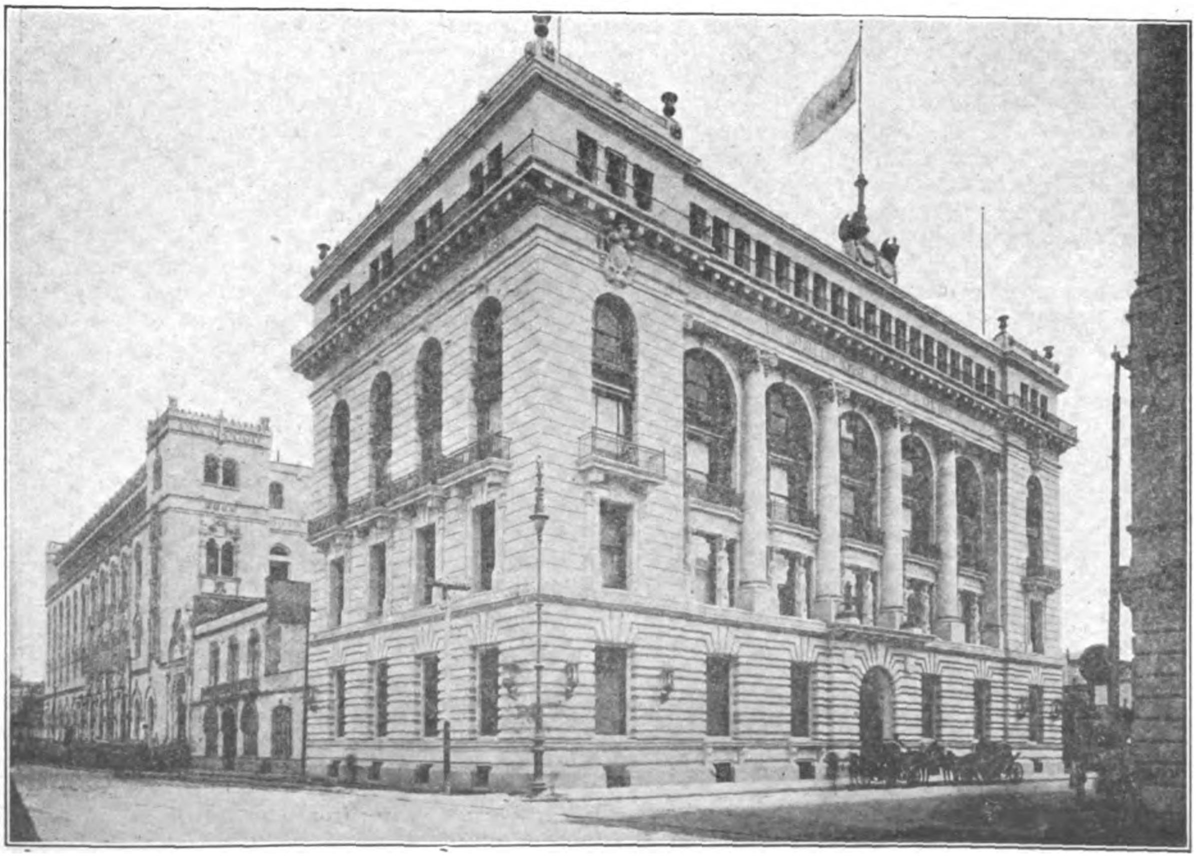
> On this point we have had great encouragement, as experiments made from territory cut over some years ago show that there will be a second cut of some size, and if the country is visited by rains we may count on a steady though slow development of this second growth. This can never reach proportions large enough to warrant us in expecting an output anywhere near the yield of 1910, but it will make it possible for some of the factories to maintain a constant if diminished output. From the present outlook and from the experiences gained in the past the rubber trade may count on an annual production indefinitely of somewhat over 2000 tons. These figures are based on the supposition that the price of guayule will not go below 45 cents nor above 75 cents per pound. If the price should go below 45 cents there will be less guayule produced than the above figures, and if it goes above 75 cents there will be an increase over these figures temporarily, with acceleration of the consumption of the available shrub and consequent reduction of the future supply. High prices for rubber mean high prices for the shrub and a resultant destruction of the young and growing shrub, as anything that appears like guayule will be cut and shipped to the factories by the shrub owners greedy for money.

Processes for Extracting the Rubber

The problem of extracting the rubber from the *Parthenium argentatum* was solved by two methods, chemical and mechanical. Of the chemical processes actually used there was first the Bergner. By this process the plants are ground in a Krupp crusher and then a ball mill (Krupp patent) until the larger part of the wood is separated and the rubber forms granules with the remaining wood particles. These are separated from the wood either by sifting or by a suction device. For purifying, the granules are placed in an iron vessel having a double bottom and are boiled by steam. After boiling the mass is transferred to a wooden vessel, where it is precipitated by the addition of cold water, and is then passed through a drum sieve having a double bottom.

There are, however, simpler chemical processes where the crude material, ground to a fine powder, is mixed with alkaline substances and boiled in steam to destroy the wood fiber. These processes are similar to those used in the manufacture of wood pulp, which consists in heating the crushed wood, after a 10° to 12° Baumé solution of soda has been added, for 5 to 6 hours with steam under pressure. After the pulp has been removed the mass is washed in water and the alkaline substances are neutralized by diluted acids. Of this type is the Marx process, where the ground wood is heated with three times its weight of a comparatively dilute solution of alkali—say a 6 per cent caustic soda lye—and kept at a boiling point for about six hours. On cooling, the rubber floats to the surface and is removed by skimming and freed of the alkaline lye by the aid of boiling water.

In the Delafond extracting process the entire plant is first pulverized. When powdered, the material is freed from dust and sand by



The Modern Home of a Large Life Insurance Company in Mexico City mechanical means. It is then placed in an apparatus in which it is heated to a temperature at which the resinous parts are melted and at the same time subjected to pressure, with the result that the molten resinous parts are absorbed by the particles of wood, which play the part of absorbents and thus make it possible to leave the rubber almost clean and free from resinous matter. When taken out of the compressor, the mass is transferred to an apparatus by which the vesicular parts of the rubber become agglomerated, while the wood, the resinous matter, and other impurities are separated from the rubber. This is a dry process, as the steam used for heating does not come in contact with the material treated. The rubber is afterwards more thoroughly purified by water.

Successful Mechanical Extraction Process

The mechanical or Lawrence process was suggested by the native method of chewing the rubber out of the shrub. In this process the shrub is first passed through corrugated crushing rolls for rough grinding. The resulting mass is then placed in a pebble-mill cylinder of steel lined with Belgian flint bricks. The grinding is accomplished by means of flint shore pebbles. The mill is charged with one-third its volume of pebbles, one-half of water, and 6 or 8 bushels of the ground shrub. It is revolved about 30 times a minute for one and one-half or two hours, when the mass is run into tanks, where the rubber floats and most of the bagasse sinks. That portion of the bagasse coming from the cork of the bark floats with the rubber, and the waterlogging of this is accomplished under water, either by pressure or continued soaking. Beater washing in an elliptical tank containing a paddle wheel prepares for the final separation in the settling tanks. The nearly clean rubber is passed finally between corrugated and then smooth rolls and washed and sheeted and dried for market.

In this connection Dr. Endlich's remarks on the supply of the shrub for extraction factories are pertinent:

> A plant with a daily capacity of 1000 kilos of guayule rubber would daily require 10,000 to 14,286 kilos of dry crude material, figuring on an extraction of 1 to 10 per cent. Suppose that 1 hectare of mountain slopes furnishes 600 kilos of guayule plants. The extracting plant above referred to would daily require the product of 16.7 to 23.8 hectares, or the plants from 6012 to 8568 hectares annually. Even if we assume that the next generation of plants could be harvested after the lapse of 10 years, it would be necessary to command an area as large as 60,120 to 85,680 hectares of guayule-producing lands.

Characteristics of Guayule Rubber

Guayule rubber is not of the highest grade. Its color when new is a pale gray green, but blackens on exposure to the air. Disadvantages of guayule rubber are the amount of resin it contains, about 20 per cent, and, due to the careless method employed by some factories in extracting, a certain amount of woody fiber. With two-thirds of the resin removed, it is very like high-grade Panama rubber.

There are ordinarily two grades put upon the market. The common grade, known as "hule crudo" (crude rubber), has the following distinctive features: The color of the cut, which varies between light and dark gray; the presence of wood particles; and a resinous odor and somewhat pitchy appearance. The better grade, "hule refinado" (refined rubber), the price of which is about 20 per cent higher than that of the crude product, contains no wood and but little resin and is lighter in color.

Analysis of a good sample of the ordinary grade gave: Rubber, 57.28 per cent; resin, 19.35 per cent; water, 20.69 per cent; inorganic impurities, 2.68 per cent. In the higher grade, or refined rubber, the resin is often reduced to 1 or 2 per cent. An example of this is a guayule of a yellow gray color, free from smell and impurities. Its chemical analysis was: Resin, 1.06 per cent; ash, 0.63 per cent; caoutchouc, 98.32 per cent.

Special brands are prepared for specific purposes and are usually more or less deresinated. The extracted resin is a highly complex body, but there is little doubt that a certain amount of it acts to a degree as a preservative in vulcanized rubber goods. The resin comprises all the acetone solubles that the rubber contains, and 5, 10, or 15 per cent, or even all, of it is extracted.[1]

Resin is not seriously objected to in raw rubber (many African sorts with 20 per cent and over of resin give good results in manu-

Mexico City's General Postoffice

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[1] For practical purposes and on a large scale, the acetone process of deresination is too costly. A caustic soda process is therefore better. The apparatus used is a closed steam-jacketed kettle, using steam at 50 pounds pressure. This extracts 10 per cent of the resin, the remainder not being objected to by rubber manufacturers. A typical formula for such extraction is: Eight pounds guayule rubber; 3 gallons water; 8 ounces resin soap, and 8 ounces caustic soda.

Sixteenth of September Avenue, One of the City's Busy Thoroughfares

facture), yet the resin in the guayule is a disadvantage, as the rubber is itself soft and the 20 per cent of resin makes it still softer. Its use therefore in compounds that contain oil and substitutes results in porosity.

The drying of guayule is difficult, as it retains moisture with great tenacity. Its drying is best accomplished in a vacuum chamber, heated for five hours at a temperature of 70° C. It was at first difficult also to remove the distinctive aromatic smell, and the presence of the wood fiber prejudiced manufacturers against it.

Prices of Guayule Rubber

The price of guayule rubber is dependent to a large degree upon the price of high-grade rubber. At one time the best quality sold in New York at 85 cents per pound, but in 1906 one company took a contract at 28 cents per pound. Later in the same year the price rose to 39 cents. Eighty-five cents was by far too high a price, 45 to 50 cents being a fairer average. Forty-five cents gold per pound leaves a net profit of about 20 cents to the producer of the crude product, from which profit the royalties must be deducted. As a rule, guayule rubber is quoted at about one-half the price of up-river fine Para rubber.

The following figures are the average of high and low prices on the best quality of guayule rubber, 20 per cent moisture guaranteed:

1910	$0.85½
1911	.58½
1912	.56
1913	.48¾
1914	.41
1915	.29¾
1916	.44
1917	.38

Statistics of Production

During the calendar year 1907 it is reported that Mexico exported 11,487,678 pounds of guayule. These figures are not official. In fact, no separate official figures were given for the exportation of guayule until the fiscal year 1910-11. Prior to that year they were included with Castilloa rubber. The total exports of rubber (guayule and Castilloa) since the year ending June 30, 1903, were as follows:

	Pounds.
1903-4	677,758
1904-5	1,095,169
1905-6	3,190,548
1906-7	10,321,247
1907-8	12,372,241
1908-9	13,233,382
1909-10	17,750,181

Before the commercial extraction of guayule was established in Mexico, that country rarely exported over 400,000 pounds of rubber; therefore, of the above amounts, all over 600,000 pounds may be considered guayule. The exports of guayule since 1910 are given as follows:

	Pounds.
1910-11	19,749,522
1911-12	14,238,625
1912-13	10,218,191
1913-14	1,475,804
1914-15	5,811,849
1915-16	2,816,068

Cultivation of the Guayule Shrub

From the time the guayule-bearing areas were fairly well located, the question of regrowth and cultivation were frequently brought up. Indeed, several companies employed botanists to study the plant and to conduct experiments to determine the practicability of its propogation on a commercial scale. Dr. Endlich, foreseeing for it a future in the German African possessions, wrote:

> The guayule offers the following advantages over other rubber-producing plants:
>
> 1. Its requirements in the matter of soil and moisure are limited, and it may consequently be used for making sterile lands productive, provided the soil contains a sufficient amount of lime.
> 2. It grows in a splendid subtropical climate, a fact which is especially important on account of its bearing on the question of labor. The plants do not suffer from night frosts.[1]
> 3. The plants may be gathered throughout the year.
> 4. In suitable districts its cultivation promises high net returns, provided it is carried on conjointly with the extraction of rubber.
>
> Now, as in large parts of German Southwest Africa natural conditions (soil, climate, altitude, etc.) are similar to those prevailing in the northern part of the Mexican highlands, it becomes highly probable that the guayule plant with its very limited requirements would likewise flourish in many districts of that colony.
>
> The possibility of using the guayule plant for making lands productive which are not suitable for growing other plants or crops should be a sufficient inducement for the making of experiments by its transplantation.

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[1] Frost kills young seedlings.

Back to the Aztecs

(From the *Christian Science Monitor*)

Just how far the Aztecs would have advanced in the last three hundred years, had they been permitted to develop their civilization, well under way when the Spaniards arrived in America, must be left entirely to conjecture. There is a basis for optimistic speculation, however, in the fact that, at the time of the conquest of Anahuac, or Mexico, the natives had made very considerable progress along many lines. They had conquered all the territory between the oceans, had set up a monarchy, had acquired a wide knowledge of the arts and crafts, had established industry and trade, and had instituted land laws that, while long since superseded by those of the stranger, have never been wholly rooted out of the consciousness or the regard of the people. At the bottom of nearly every revolution that has broken out in modern Mexico has been agrarianism; and Mexican agrarianism has always had for its aim and end, not only the overthrow of the proud hacendado and the division of the land among the people, but a return to the system which permitted one to possess land only so long as one made proper use of it.

It seems strange that, after three centuries, the people of other races and other parts of North America should be seriously studying the Aztec land system, with the view of incorporating it into the plan they have in view for providing veterans of the European war on the Allied side with homes and holdings. The British Columbians are a unit in desiring that Canada shall do its whole part by the returned soldiers, and, in agreement with the other provinces, that one of the best methods, if not the very best, of helping the brave fellows is to provide them with means whereby they can achieve independent subsistence. They are ready, that is, to make an allotment of lands to the veterans; they will favor cooperation in the plans of the Imperial and Dominion governments to meet the cost of buildings and other improvements; and they will cooperate, likewise, in whatever may be done toward furnishing the beginners with equipment; but they are going to be very cautious in the matter of making grants which later may be diverted from the intended purpose, and fall into the hands of speculators.

This is what has led many British Columbians and other Western Canadians to inquire, lately, into the Aztec land system. They found, among other things, that in Anahuac the various tribes held land in common, under the control of the elders of the community, and that any individual of the tribe could hold, in his own right, as much land as he cared to cultivate. Of this tract, or patch, or parcel of land he was, for all practical purposes, absolute owner so long as he made use of it; when he ceased to desire it, or ceased to cultivate it, the title reverted to the tribe. Land held by the tribe was used for purposes of grazing, or for the raising of products in which the whole community shared.

Now, if the term Province or State should be substituted for tribe, the Aztec idea would work out about this way in Canada and in the United States: Any idle land might be taken up, on such terms as might be imposed, the principal condition being that the person securing occupancy should keep in employed, or, failing to do so, should surrender it to the public. Some single-taxers would have the Province or State collect a rental to correspond with the producing ability and value of the land, rentals or taxes collected in this manner to constitute the only public charge the land occupier would have to meet. Other single-taxers would impose other conditions, but all single-taxers would be in agreement as to the wisdom of removing penalties from improvements, and as to securing to the public the right of seizing and reletting all land neglected or taken out of production, or failing to meet its share in the general contribution to the public revenues. The Carranza Government in Mexico, as has been pointed out, is restoring the communal lands to the peones as rapidly as the work can be accomplished. In Yucatan, the ancient Aztec system has been practically revived. The great estates formed of holdings wrested by the conquerors from the peasants of Anahuac are rapidly becoming snug little Mexican homesteads. When the peon millions shall have come into full possession of their own, Mexico will be a very much better country to live in than it has been since Montezuma's time. The western provinces of Canada, which have land to bestow upon the returned Canadian soldiers, and the disposition to bestow it generously, are very wise in considering the best means of safeguarding their gifts. The experience of the United States along similar lines should be sufficient, even if taken alone, to satisfy them on this point.

Main Office Building of the National Railways of Mexico, Mexico City

SUCCESSFUL CO-OPERATIVE COLONY

(Concluded from page 10)

lands of Louisiana, where the air is invigorating, the climate delightful and the health rate high. The soil is rich and fertile and will raise enough food for thousands of human beings. The hotel dining-room is supplied entirely with food produced on the plantation, except for tea, coffee and a few similar articles. Large stretches of land are now planted to sugar cane, peanuts, corn, velvet beans and garden vegetables. Rice and cotton can be raised and undoubtedly will be later.

The facts mentioned will give some idea of the practicability of the Llano plan from a purely material standpoint. They will show why, so far as food, shelter, clothing, fuel and physical wants are concerned, the colony is succeeding and is bound to succeed.

A Haul of Fish From a Llano Stream

But man does not live by bread alone. There are other things to be considered beside the material and physical. And if these needs are not supplied, neither silken couches nor the food of the gods nor the elixir of youth can make a co-operative colony of any other organization of human beings a success.

The Llano Colony supplies these other needs. It considers the inner man as well as the outer man. And so doing, it constitutes the foundation—in the opinion of the colonists—of a New Order of Things which can only be built on a secure base such as this community affords.

In seeking equitable economic readjustments, the Llano community has not forgotten the spiritual principles beneath. These it takes full cognizance of, as in fact it should.

There is, therefore, real democracy and real co-operation in the colony. The colonists believe that "all ye are brethren" and they practice it. Job Harriman, big-hearted, kindly, broad-visioned pioneer, who founded the colony and is its manager, sits side by side with the sun-tanned farmer with overalls and cowhide shoes, who burns stumps, clears underbrush and plants vegetables. Each calls the other "Comrade." They are brothers. Each has his work to do. And in the ethics of the colony, one man is as good as another. It may be added that it is hard for the average man or woman who has lived many years in the artificial atmosphere of the competitive system to practice this democratic code of conduct. Only a sincere, patient, persistent example can work such a change in people in the short space of a few months or a few years. Such an example has been provided all along by Comrade Harriman. And its beneficent influence has brought noticeable results. The transition has been quicker than would seem possible.

This democratization of men and women has not caused, as many would naturally fear, a reducing of the efficient to the level of the inefficient, of the intelligent to the level of the ignorant. The reverse has been true. The untutored, when treated on terms of equality by his cultured comrade, seeks education more quickly than if the class line were drawn, as it is in the outside world. He begins to read and learn, and one day he surprises his acquaintances by the mind-power he begins to manifest. He had the potentialities all of the time. Competition, "red in tooth and claw," could not call them forth. Co-operation and brotherhood are doing what competition could never do.

The equal wage helps to lift the standard, too. There are no longer economic worries and there is no longer any reason why the farmer or machinist should not read and learn as well as the clerk or superintendent. If one man gets the same pay as another, he should be as intelligent and as well-informed as the other, in his own branch of work, at least. And he usually proceeds to make himself so.

As time goes on, the hours of labor will probably be reduced uniformly and the expenses of living, which are low now, will be cut, too. This will give more opportunity for individual development, study and growth. Greater economic freedom will bring greater spiritual and intellectual power and more perfect physical health. Freed from industrial chains, men and women will become makers, instead of creatures of environment—lords of the earth, instead of worms of the dust.

The Llano Colony is not only the "Gateway to Freedom" for the person or family locating there, but it is the Gateway to the Freedom of the World, for it opens up the great vista that leads to Industrial Emancipation—the Brotherhood of Man and the New Civilization!

Young Llano Colonists Working in Their Gardens

Increased Duties on Footwear

As already announced, a careful study has for some time been in progress for the purpose of so regulating the import duties upon footwear as to afford better protection for the local manufacturers. The shoe-making industry has attained large proportions and in many cases the product is of such high quality that unscrupulous dealers have been in the habit of passing it off upon purchasers as the imported article, and have thus obtained prices far in excess of those paid for the same article when sold without misrepresentation. This was objected to by the manufacturers and honest dealers, with the result that an investigation was made. As a result, a decree has been promulgated by President Carranza by which protective duties will hereafter be collected upon imported footwear.

THE TAX ON PRECIOUS METALS

(Concluded from page 9)

be shown that there are only small vestiges of the metals in the material assayed.

ART. 7. The States shall not tax mining property or the development or output of mines when the nation enjoys over them the "dominium directum," whether the substances be gold, silver, copper, lead, or any other substance over which the Nation, under Article 27, enjoys the "dominium directum." In such cases they shall levy a tax to be based on the value of the metal or substances developed without deduction of cost, which tax shall never exceed 2 per cent. of this value. When the mines or minerals are neither gold nor silver, the State governments may tax them with half the rate levied by this law on these metals, provided such half do not exceed 2 per cent fixed above as a maximum. Every other form of taxation, therefore, except the stamp tax, irrespective of its name, is expressly forbidden, whether this tax be on the extraction, output or product of the mines, capital invested therein, mining stocks or shares, the transfer of ownership of mining property, as well as of denouncements, constitution of mining companies, issuance of titles and shares, and any procedure necessary to the acquisition of mining properties.

In regard to petroleum and its derivatives, refineries and companies interested in the development of mining deposits or directly related to this industry, the states may or may not levy taxes on them, according to the respective law.

The municipalities shall, in no event, enjoy any taxes proceeding from the mining industry.

ART. 8. Smelters or other metallurgical establishments, including factories for coke, when in operation, shall pay to the State government in which they are located, or to the governments of the Federal District or Territories, according to their location, a single tax which shall not exceed 5 per thousand per annum on the value of the property, including its equipment.

Any other tax, excepting only the stamp tax, which may be attempted to be levied on the treatment, output or profits from these metallurgical establishments, capital invested therein, transfer of ownership, shares, acquisition of smelters, and other procedure necessary thereto, shall be expressly prohibited.

ART. 9. The Federal stamp tax shall not be levied on taxes paid into the Revenue Offices of the several States under the laws and regulations enacted by the State government within the limitations set by Articles 7 and 8 hereof.

ART. 10. The export of gold ready for minting and of any kind of Mexican gold or silver coins, as well as of foreign gold coins of every kind is hereby prohibited.

ART. 11. The export of silver bars and of bars of gold and silver mixed may only be permitted in each special case by the Treasury Department.

ART. 12. The export of silver pesos shall be allowed under an arrangement made in each case with the Treasury Department, provided within a term of five days there shall be imported into the country for coinage by the mint a quantity of gold metal equal to the value of the pesos.

ART. 13. The Monetary Commission, acting in conjunction with the Treasury Department, shall acquire such gold and silver bars as it may deem necessary for purposes of reserve or coinage.

ART. 14. The importation of gold in bars and foreign or Mexican gold coins is excepted from the payment of consular dues, as well as from the requirement of consular invoice.

ART. 15. Exporters of bars mixed with any fineness of gold and minerals or concentrates of any kind, provided these assay over two grammes per ton, shall reimport into the country in gold bars ready for minting, or in Mexican or foreign gold coins, an amount equal to that of the gold contained in the bars, minerals, or concentrates exported.

ART. 16. Exporters of pure silver or silver mixed with minerals or concentrates of any kind, provided these assay over 250 grammes per ton, shall reimport into the country in gold bars suitable for minting or in Mexican or foreign gold coin, a percentage which shall be fixed either periodically or for each specific case by the Treasury Department of the value of the silver contained in the bars, minerals or concentrates exported.

ART. 17. The internal stamp tax shall not be paid on gold reimported in pursuance of the two foregoing articles, since the tax was paid on the export of the metals.

ART. 18. For the liquidation of the gold to be imported under Article 16, the rate fixed by the Treasury Department for the purposes of the present tax collection on the day of its presentation to the mint, to the Federal Assay Offices or to the Customs Houses, provided the Customs Houses shall have carried out the sampling of the metals or minerals, shall be taken as the standard for determining the value of silver.

ART. 19. Exporters of bars, minerals and concentrates of gold and silver, or of silver pesos shall give a bond up to the value of the amount of gold to be reimported in favor of the Customs House through which the importation is to be effected, or in favor of the mint or Federal Assay Offices.

ART. 20. Reimportations of gold shall be made within twenty days following the exportations; failure to comply with the obligation to reimport shall be punished by a forfeiture of the bond just as if it were a case of fraudulent exportation.

ART. 21. The gold imported shall be delivered for coinage to the mint within 30 days following the date of its importation into the country. Failure to comply with this provision shall likewise entail the forfeiture of the bond, as in the preceding case. The mint shall charge the interested parties only coinage, assay, or smelters dues, as the case may be.

ART. 22. For the purposes of the two foregoing articles, the Customs Houses shall report reimportations of gold to the mint which shall in turn advise the Customs Houses, so soon as the gold is received for coinage, until which time the bonds executed by exporters shall neither be cancelled nor returned.

ART. 23. Exporters shall be bound to prove to the satisfaction of the mint or the Federal Assay Offices, as the case may be, that they have reimported the gold to which Articles 15 and 16 hereof refer, for which purpose they shall demand a certificate from the Customs Houses. After they have presented this certificate to the Federal Assay Offices they shall then prove to the satisfaction of these authorities that they have delivered the necessary gold for coinage to the mint, which latter shall then extend the proper certificate.

ART. 24. The special stamp tax, which, according to the laws at present in force, must be paid on titles of ownership of mines, shall be at the rate of 10 pesos for each pertenencia of those covered by the title, irrespective of the mineral substances to be developed.

ART. 25. The annual mining tax shall be as follows:

(a) On one to five pertenencias at the rate of six pesos per annum per pertenencia—that is to say, two pesos payable every four months.

(b) On six to fifty pertenencias at the rate of nine pesos per annum per pertenencia—that is to say, at the rate of three pesos for every four months.

(c) One fifty-one to one hundred pertenencias at the rate of twelve pesos per annum per pertenencia—that is to say, four pesos payable every four months.

(d) On one hundred pertenencias and upwards at the rate of eighteen pesos per annum per pertenencia—that is to say, six pesos payable every four months.

ART. 26. The progressive rates in the foregoing law shall be applicable, provided the pertenencias belong to the same owner and are located within the same mining district.

ART 27. Zinc and aluminum in bare, filings, etc., sulphur, alkaline substances, hypo-sulphide of soda, salt petre, nitrate of potassium or soda, lead acetate and zinc in small perforated sheets, shall pay no import dues, provided they are introduced into the country to be used in the treatment of minerals.

Transitory Articles

ARTICLE 1. The present law shall be effective from and after the first day of May.

ART. 2. The decrees of May 1, 1896; September 27, 1917, and March 22, 1918, as well as all laws and regulations prior to this decree on mining, taxes and franchises are hereby repealed.

(This law shall be effective from and after the first day of May, 1918.)

Stringent orders have been issued by Governor Alfredo Breceda, of the Federal District (which includes the city of Mexico), for the closing of all establishments wherein games of chance or gambling of any kind is carried on. The Chief of Police is rigidly enforcing the decree.

Nineteen women who have been employed for a long term of years in the establishment of "El Buen Tono," the leading tobacco manufactory of the city of Mexico, were recently pensioned and for the remainder of their lives will receive regular payments of money, as also medical attention and care whenever needed. The factory in question is a model of its kind.

Of Mutual Benefit

The visit of the newspaper editors from the republic of Mexico, now touring the United States as guests of the Washington government, cannot fail to be of lasting benefit to the people of both nations. The visiting editors will return to their homes with a much clearer and more accurate knowledge of the vast resources of the United States, in both man power and materials, and the firm determination of the American people to pour out without stint both blood and treasure to insure the safety of democracy and destruction of Prussianism; returning home with knowledge they will spread it among their fellow citizens, with a happy result that the people of Mexico will acquire a far different view of the American people, their aims, objects and intentions.

By contact with the visitors mentioned the leading men of the various parts of our own country will have an opportunity to obtain at first hand a better knowledge of the Mexican character than in any other way. They will realize, it is likely, for the first time, some of the idfferences between the two peoples and that the Mexican people as a whole have many remarkable virtues and points of excellence. The better understanding that will result between the two nations cannot fail to raise both in mutual regard and esteem.

The great mass of the Mexican people are idealists, and they are as fervent in their adherence to the ideals of democracy as are our own people. When their fellow citizens of the editorial profession return to their homes and tell their compatriots how whole-heartedly and determinedly the entire American people are in their high resolve to establish without question the safety of democratic ideals, those compatriots will arise to a higher appreciation of the American people than ever before; and there will grow in the heart of the Mexican people a faith and confidence in American character and the aims and objects of the American nation, such as has never existed before in Mexico.

Through nearly forty years of close and intimate acquaintance with Mexican people, this editor has observed that they are worthy of confidence and esteem. Their institutions have been modeled upon those of the United States, and in wresting their own independence from the crown of Spain a century or more ago, that generation of Mexicans but emulated the examples set by the earlier generation of Americans of 1776. When they had achieved independence they set up political housekeeping upon the same plan, and with the same ideals and aspirations as did the American republic, upon which they have looked always as an older sister in the family of nations. And they have been ready and willing always to give that older sister the courteous recognition due one bearing that relation. In the great work of development of democratic ideals they have been ready always to borrow inspiration from the American Declaration of Independence and inspiration from the great Americans who have exalted the human race.—**Nogales** (Arizona) **Oasis.**

MEXICO CITY, THE BEAUTIFUL

(*Concluded from page* 21)

the Republic, and to many other suburban towns and villages each with a charm of its own. An especially enjoyable journey is the one to Atzcapotzalco, where, if one be properly guided, he will be able to visit the mounds underneath which are the imperishable remains of not less than three buried and forgotten civilizations. He will learn, if he is fortunate enough to find the right sources of information, that these three civilizations were destroyed first by fire, then by water, and the last by some convulsion of nature. And if he be still more fortunate, and should encounter, as did the writer, a certain American archaeologist of note who has the rare permission of the Government to excavate among these buried ruins, he may be permitted to participate in the work, with great damage to clothes and cleanliness it is true, but he will very likely be fortunate enough to himself be the finder of some of the stone artifacts made by Egyptian or Chinese or other peoples more thousands of years ago than any one can more than dream. Buried beneath the natural accretion of the soil many feet, a little calculation demonstrates that the lowest layer of remains representing the crudest civilization must have been here upward of fifty thousand years.

Only a few of the principal objects of interest in the capital city have yet been referred to and space forbids going into detail or even mentioning many of the most interesting. Indeed, it would require a good-sized volume to deal at all adequately with the subject. But there are the National Archaeological and Military Museums, both replete with objects of the deepest interest. In the former are relics of the most ancient inhabitants of the valleys and plateaus of Mexico, and in the labyrinth of rooms and corridors and courtyards one may find ample food for study for days. Indeed, the lover of such studies can never tire of the inspection of this wonderful collection.

The National Palace itself, commenced by Cortez, is a wonderfully interesting structure, and hard by it, a few squares distant, is the building which housed the first press from which the first books were issued a hundred years before the first press was set up on the Atlantic coast. This is only one of the many facts that is well calculated to reduce the conceit of too many people who are not Mexicans. From one end of the city to the other there are buildings and other objects of the deepest interest, and one may live here many months and devote much time to exploring the out-of-the-way portions of the place, as well as those more public in character, without having acquired more than a smattering of the facts regarding Mexico.

This city has been "written to death" by visitors, most of them of the most temporary character, and much misinformation of the most remarkable character has thus been given currency—such, for example, as the statement that just comes to mind, made by one rather noted writer, that there are upward of two thousand five hundred rooms in the National Palace! But nothing that can be said, exaggerated as it has been so much, can alter the fact that it is by all odds one of the most attractive places in the world. And this, too, without saying anything about the marvelous climate, the invigorating atmosphere, the absence of anything like extremes of heat and cold, the still more notable absence of the hurry and rush of an American city, as instanced by the general closing of banks and stores and other places of like character between the hours of 12:30 and 3:30 p. m.—a period which in an American community finds the business of the day at its extreme height. Yet notwithstanding this elimination of three hours, quite as much business seems to be done in the aggregate, while who shall say that those following this custom do not get fully as much out of life, perhaps a trifle more, than do the "tonto" Americans, who rush wildly about the streets as though pursued by some demon of unrest, run over people, and otherwise conduct themselves in a manner that arouses the ridicule and contempt of those who do not find it necessary to conduct themselves like madmen in order to carry on business enterprises of vast importance and on an extensive scale.

INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM INSTITUTE

(*Concluded from page* 17)

Sec. 2. Special meetings of the Association shall be called at the direction of the President or upon the written request of ten members.

Sec. 3. Written notices of the annual meeting and of special meetings which are called to consider important matters of interest to all the membership of the Association shall be sent by the Secretary to all members at least one week in advance of a meeting.

Article XI—*Quorum*

Section 1. Twenty-five members present at any regular called meeting of the Association shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 2. The order of business at meetings of the Association shall be:

1. Reading of the records.
2. Report of the officers and Executive Committee.
3. Miscellaneous business.

Sec. 3. The Association may adopt from time to time rules for the order of business at its meetings.

Article XII

Section 1. Amendments to this constitution may be made at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the active members present. A written notice enclosing a copy of the proposed amendments to be voted upon shall be sent to each member at least one week previous to the meeting.

Sec. 2. No amendments shall be introduced unless endorsed in writing by twenty members.

LIC. RAMON OBREGON
CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
Mexico, D. F. Monte De Piedad
P. O. B. No. 598 No. 13

Granting of Export Licenses

In giving concrete expression to the friendly sentiments expressed in behalf of the Government of the United States by President Wilson in his address to the Mexican journalists at the White House on June 7 last the Department of State has arranged that export licenses will be freely granted for shipments to Mexico of the commodities enumerated below, subject only to the restrictions imposed by the the laws and regulations of the United States respecting trading with the enemy:

1. Corn, 1,500,000 bushels, approximately 30,000 tons, between now and November. If purchases are in considerable quantities, they should be made through United States Food Administration.
2. Coke will be licensed if drawn from certain specified districts.
3. Amonia will be supplied to Mexico for ice making, refrigerating, and foodstuffs, but not for beer making. In other words, Mexico will be treated in exactly the same way as all other South and Central American countries.
4. Agricultural machinery licenses will be granted liberally. Mining machinery licenses, where required for production of metals, will be granted liberally.
5. Articles of iron steel manufacture. Generally speaking, this country will license freely all articles of steel and iron manufacture which are to be used for the purpose of producing war material for this country. In other cases this country, on account of the necessity for conservation, restricts the exportation of iron and steel to all countries.
6. Articles for the exploitation of mines, especially cyanide, dynamite caps, and fuses. Mexico is now getting cyanide for their gold products. All countries have been rationed with respect to cyanide, since there is not enough to go around. Export licenses are granted for dynamite to Mexico as required for mining purposes. The same applies to caps and fuses.
7. Common Soap. License will be granted for 2,000 tons.
8. Licenses will be granted for copper in manufactured form to as great an extent as the conservation measures of the United States will permit. The same applies to zinc. The United States is short of ferromanganese and, accordingly, will not be able to grant export licenses for this commodity to any great extent.
9. License will freely be granted for the following foodstuffs to Mexico: Canned herring, canned sardines, butter, cocoa, condensed milk, corn, corn meal, corn flour, confectionery (including chocolate candy), barreled beef, dried fruit, lard, mutton oil, oats, pork, pork products, oleo oil, peas (not seed), tea. Purchases in considerable quantities to be made through Food Administration. The United States will freely license all pork products to Mexico.

The United States is also prepared to license for export to Mexico a considerable amount of railway equipment, the character of which has been communicated to the Mexican Government.

List Not Exclusive

The above list of articles is not meant to be evclusive. The Government of the United States will be glad to consider carefully and in the most friendly spirit any requests which the Mexican Government may make for the inclusion of other articles in this list. The United States has been compelled to conserve centain commodities indispensably required for its own use and for the use of the governments associated with it in the war, which in normal times would be permitted to be freely exported from the United States to Mexico; but as a result of the efforts of the United States Government to stimulate production, the list of such conserved articles will gradually contract and conditions of trade and intercourse between the two countries will it is hoped, soon become normalized. In taking this friendly position toward Mexico, the United States Government has no doubt that the Mexican Government will continue to allow commodities not imperatively needed in Mexico to be exported to the United States and will not permit the commodities and food received from the United States nor similar commodities and food to be exported to other countries.

Commodious port works are projected at the island of Lobos, off the Tampico coast, which have for their object the accommodation of the petroleum carrying vessels which ply from that section with great regularity and frequency. It is expected that the Port of Lobos will become one of the most important in the Republic, and all the traffic of this kind will be concentrated there.

The Secretary of Fomento has given permission for the establishment on the Pacific coast in the States of Sonora, Sinaloa, Nayarit, Lower California, Colima, etc., of numerous works for catching and packing sea foods of all kinds. Besides supplying the extensive home demand for such products, it is expected a large export trade will be built up.

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THE MEXICAN REVIEW will be pleased to receive communications from whatever source dealing with matters of interest to both Mexicans and Americans, and from those who desire to have the truth known about Mexico. It is hoped that all who wish to aid in the removal of the widespread false impressions concerning that country, and in placing it in its proper light before the world, will assist THE REVIEW in this important but difficult task.

SPANISH TRANSLATION BY TECHNICAL EXPERT

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Edward M. Wilson, M.E.

Technical Petroleum Expert

Geological Reports, Plans & Estimates of Mexican Oil Regions

P. O. Box 274 *Mexico City*

The contract held by the Sonora News Company for the exclusive privilege of selling newspapers, periodicals, fruits, etc., on all the railway trains in the Republic has been cancelled on the ground that it is contrary to the constitutional inhibition of monopolies of all kinds. The concern in question had held this monopoly many years and has netted an immense profit therefrom.

Announcement is made of the organization of a new steamship company devoted solely to traffic between Cuba and points on the gulf coast of Mexico. It is expected that traffic between the two countries, which has constantly been growing, will thereby be largely increased.

Fernando Gonzalez Roa **Cable Address**
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Adam Leckie

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The Damage Claims Commission

ANNOUNCEMENT is made in the press that the preliminary work of organizing the National Damage Claims Commission will be completed shortly and that body will then be prepared to consider the great volume of claims that have already been presented. In the neighborhood of forty thousand claims have already been presented, covering the different periods of the Revolution. Between eight and nine thousand of these are for damages claimed to have been suffered in the period of the Madero régime and which were submitted to a commission at that time. Many claims covering the last years of the Revolution are daily filed. It is understood that a decree will shortly be issued making certain changes and modifications in the manner of procedure in presenting and handling these claims.

Number of Newspapers and Magazines in the Republic

THE Postoffice Department has issued a statement showing that there is a total of 439 newspapers, magazines and periodicals issued in the entire Republic, and divided among the various States as follows: Aguascalientes 9, Campeche 2, Coahuila 15, Colima 9, Chihuahua 11, Chiapas 5, Mexico City 137, Durango 6, Guanajuato 28, Guerrero 2, Hidalgo 4, Jalisco 26, Mexico (State) 7, Michoacan 12, Nayarit 5, Nuevo Leon 16, Oaxaca 5, Puebla 18, Queretaro 3, San Luis Potosi 9, Sinaloa 10, Sonora 10, Tabasco 5, Tamaulipas 13, Vera Cruz 27, Yucatan 34, Zacatecas 9, Baja California 2.

Of the foregoing, 81 are daily papers, 51 are semi-weekly or tri-weekly, 180 are weeklies and tri-monthlies, 33 are bi-monthlies, 85 are monthlies, and 9 are of various terms of publication.

Popular Representation In Congress

THE membership of the present Congress, the twenty-eighth of the Republic, is divided as follows: Ten lawyers, twelve doctors of medicine, ten engineers (civil), eighteen professors of public instruction, ten newspaper writers, two historians, seven railroad men, fifteen expert office men, fourteen members of the army, three industrialists, sixteen merchants, fourteen working men, nine agriculturists. The remainder are men who are not specialists in any of the branches mentioned, but are engaged in various activities in banking, commerce and industry, as also members of university faculties throughout the Republic.

Commerce with British Columbia

IT IS announced that the Mexican Consul in Vancouver, B. C., has arranged with the Gulf Mail Steamship Company for an interchange of products between the west coast ports of Mexico and British Columbia via San Francisco. From British Columbia will be brought canned salmon, lumber, coal, paper and other products that are scarce in Mexico, while from this country will be taken coffee, tobacco, rubbber, henequen and ixtli fiber, rice, hard woods, bananas (fresh and dried), cocoanuts and other tropical products.

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Crops Promise To Be Abundant

THE Chief Officer of the Department of Agriculture and Development announces that for some time the Secretary of that Department, Pastor Rouaix, has been devoting a great deal of personal attention to the stimulation of agricultural development in all portions of the Republic. The Government has done all in its power for this end and through the medium of conferences and assistance has done much to aid the small farmers in planting and cultivating their crops. The tractors procured by the Government for the use of farmers desiring them have also aided greatly in stimulating increased production. Reports received at Department headquarters are to the effect that all the crops are in a promising condition and it is believed sufficient will be raised to meet all the needs of the country. In the States of Vera Cruz, Jalisco, Zacatecas, Guanajuato, Colima and Oaxaca, and in the Territories of Quintana Roo and Lower California the prospects are excellent for a crop of corn, wheat, beans and other products much greater than has been obtained in former years.

To Encourage Small Manufactories

THE Department of Industry and Commerce proposes to supply the necessary data for the establishment of small manufactories of metallic and glass receptacles for articles of food, toilet, etc., in order that the monopoly that has hitherto existed in the production of such articles may be broken up for the corresponding benefit of the public as well as of those who wish to engage in such industries.

Campaign Against Tuberculosis

THE National Department of Health has been conducting experiments in combating tuberculosis by the use of injections of saccharine and with admirable results. Upward of 1500 separate cases have been treated with uniformly good results in the majority of instances. The President of the Republic has now directed that a campaign be inaugurated in all portions of the Republic as rapidly as possible for combating the disease. The treatments are to be entirely free of cost to the patient. The material used for the injections is manufactured entirely at the expense of a wealthy man whose name is kept a secret.

Mexico's Independence Day

Popular Demonstrations Which Have Marked Three Separate Epochs in the History of the City and of the Republic

President Carranza, His Cabinet and Officials on the Special Tribune at Base of Independence Monument

MEXICO CITY, *September* 16, 1918.

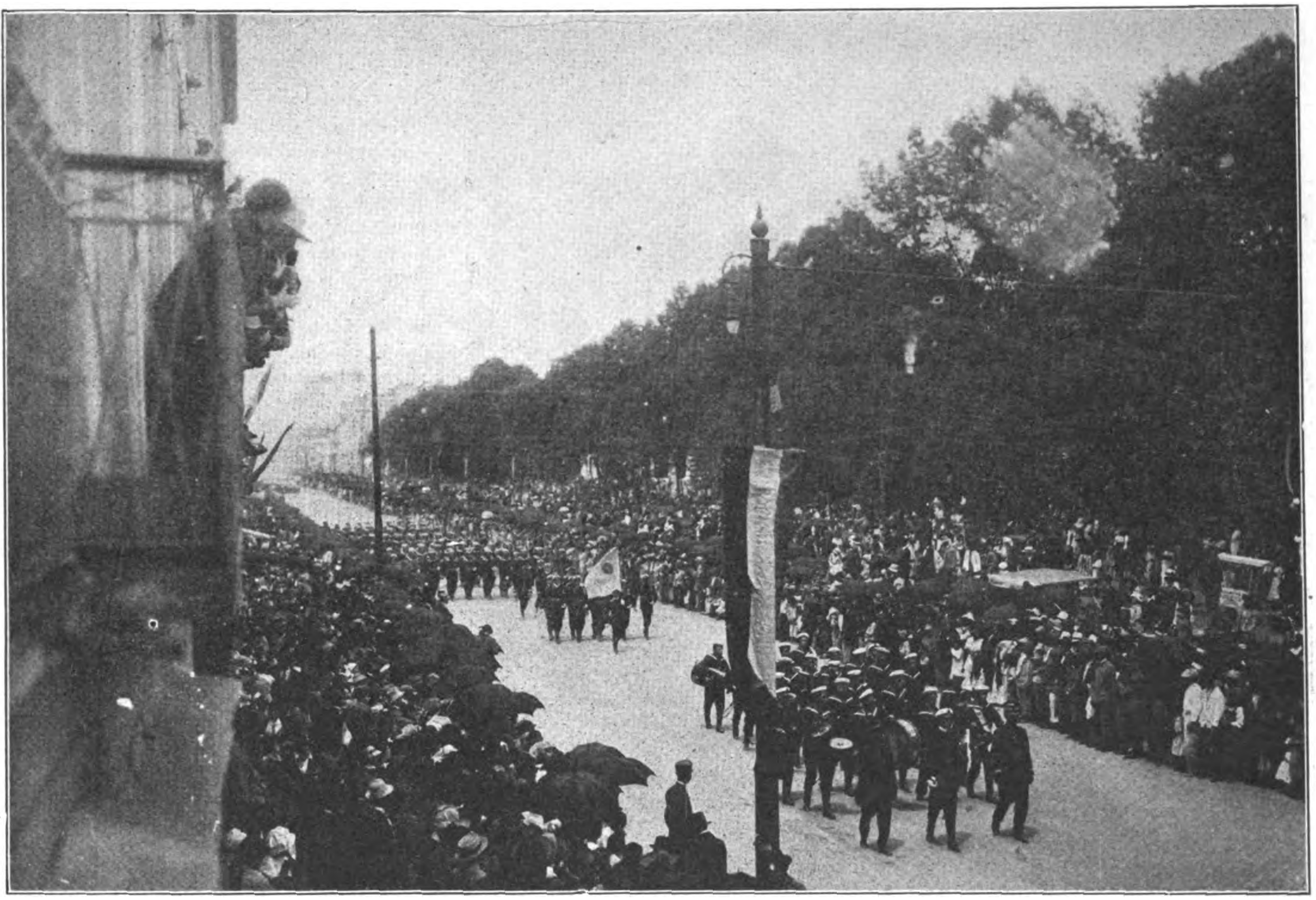
TO-DAY—Mexico's Independence Anniversary, the Mexican Fourth of July, as many foreigners call it—was celebrated with a popular demonstration and festivities, including a great military parade, which was the third event of its kind marking historical epochs in the history of the capital as well as of the country that it has been the writer's good fortune to witness.

Just eight years ago to-day President Diaz was at the (apparent) height of his power. For upward of thirty-five years he had been the ruler of the Republic and had worked his will with little opposition. He and his adherents "pointed with pride" to a country rescued from anarchy, internecine strife and banditry; to a network of railways and other improvements; to the development of prosperous industries of all kinds; to the opening of mines that were producing fabulous wealth; to the investment of hundreds of millions of foreign capital; to a surface prosperity that was as deceptive as it was apparent and attractive. True, there were some things to which they did not point with pride, but these were sedulously kept in the background or minimized, and the superficial observer saw none of them. There were some Mexicans as well as foreigners—who claimed to be able to see the handwriting on the wall, but they were laughed to scorn or pooh-poohed to silence by many who were honest enough in their belief that the years of tranquillity and prosperity under the rule of President Diaz had taught the people the benefits of prolonged peace and that never again would the country be disturbed by such internecine disturbances as had been the rule almost from the time Hidalgo raised his banner of revolt in 1810 down to the period in which Diaz had gained and maintained his supremacy. It may as well be confessed that the writer was included in the number of those who held to this belief—and with apparently good reason.

The entire month of September, 1910, was given up to a series of festivities commemorative of the centennial anniversary of the uprising under the leadership of the "patriot-priest" Hidalgo, in the little town of Dolores Hidalgo, in the State of Guanajuato, which culminated eleven years later in the expulsion of the hated Spaniard from the soil which he had dominated for three hundred long years. A tablet in the city of Chihuahua marks the spot where the brave priest faced a firing squad after having been betrayed by some of his associates, but his memory, like that of all martyrs to liberty, proved a rallying cry and to-day he is the most honored of all the long roll of Mexicans who have given their lives for their beloved country.

The festivities of that memorable September month of 1910 were undoubtedly the most splendid and impressive of their kind ever witnessed on the Western Hemisphere. And this is said advisedly. Nothing apparently that artistic taste could suggest or that money could secure was left undone which would contribute in any manner towards impressing not only the natives of the country, but the thousands of foreigners who had flocked here to witness the great event, or rather series of events, with an understanding of the marvelous development achieved under the hand—the iron hand it is true—of Porfirio Diaz, as well as with a firm belief in the permanence of the system which he had built up. The pageantry of the reception of Cortez by Montezuma, reproduced with historic fidelity in all its barbaric splendor; the magnificent exhibition of floats depicting the varied industries of the Republic; the dedication of numerous public buildings, monuments and other works of art; the opening of the great water system, whose superiority for abundance and purity the world scarcely presents; the thousand and one events that crowded that wonderful month, left lasting impressions upon all so fortunate as to witness them. Then too the unbounded en-

The Allied Ministers—Ambassador Fletcher and the Belgian Minister in the Foreground



Part of Independence Day Parade, Mexico City

thusiasm which greeted every public appearance of President Diaz, which hung upon his every word and motion, which in fact almost deified him—as did some poets and writers (not always natives ones, either)—made it impossible for the most far-sighted to credit for a moment the occasionally whispered suggestion that perhaps things might possibly be not exactly what they seemed, and that—perhaps——!

And in a scant hundred days from the culmination of that centennial celebration on September 16, 1910, Diaz's power was practically shattered, his bubble of empire was pricked, the star of Madero was in the ascendant, and it was a matter of but a brief period before he was to be a fugitive from the country that had done him such honor as seldom falls to the lot of a ruler—leastwise in a presumably republican country.

All these events the writer saw, and they are clear in his memory to-day in every detail and stand out among the most interesting experiences enjoyed during his almost three score and ten years of life.

Four years passed, and then came the second historical demonstration marking an epoch in the history not only of the capital city but of the Republic.

Just a month preceding Independence Day in the year 1914—on August 16th, to be exact—the victorious General Obregon and his campaign-worn Yaqui Indian army entered this city and marched over much the same route as that taken by the magnificent processions of the Centennial. But what a difference! For a year and a half this leader—the General who had won the proud title of one who had never lost a battle from the beginning to the end of the Revolution—with his nondescript army had been fighting their way from the American border at Nogales, Naco, Cananea, Agua Prieta and other points, down the West Coast through the States of Sonora, Sinaloa and Jalisco, as well as the Territory of Tepic, capturing Guadalajara and every other point as it was reached, winning many a battle that never found its way into print at that time, and driving the Huertistas before him without cessation or check.

When General Obregon bade President Carranza farewell at Nogales in February, 1914, prior to commencing the brilliant campaign that ended in the triumph of the Revolution, it was the design of the latter to join the army of the center and move southward on the easterly side of the Sierra Madre, while Obregon kept to the west. On parting they shook hands and Obregon said: "My Chief, I will wager that I reach Mexico City before you do." And so he did—two days ahead—though they had joined forces at Teoloyucan, twenty or thirty miles out, and the victorious General entered the city first.

It was a strange-looking army that entered the capital city that wonderful day in August, 1914, which marked the culmination of a revolution commenced by Carranza eighteen months previously with less than a hundred men, with no money, no arms, no apparent support but the consciousness of a just cause. The soldiers were ragged, dirty and more or less hungry. Some were in rags and some in jags, but assuredly not one was clad in a velvet gown. Their horses and mules were gaunt and half starved. Their uniforms could only be called such by courtesy, being the ordinary khaki, denim or cotton usually worn by the working people. They came up the Paseo de la Reforma, along the Avenida Juarez and down Avenida San Francisco, the fashionable promenade of the city, as motley a throng as was ever seen or imagined in the guise of an army. Many had their wives and babies with them, and when the head of the procession reached the National Palace the army halted and remained all day bivouacked on the pavement of the entire length of the street last named. It had seen many a curious sight in its day, but assuredly nothing that could compare with this victorious revolutionary army. Women there were by the hundred, carrying babies and all the impedimenta of housekeeping on the march. Old tin cans, jars and gourds of water, hunks of raw beef, mutton or other meat, poultry, dogs, pieces of firewood—any and every thing that they were wont to burden themselves with on the march through a region where they were obliged to live off the country and where nothing was wasted that might possibly be of use.

Mexican Marines Marching in Parade

They were indeed a strange enough looking lot of men. Few of them had less than two well-filled cartridge belts, many had four or five or even six. For if there is anything that the genuine Yaqui is greedy for, it is for cartridges. Their rifles all gave evidence of usage and of good care—indeed they did! A Yaqui will take almost as good care of his rifle as he does of his baby—perhaps more. When not in readiness for immediate use he keeps the lock wrapped in an old cloth, and in his leisure moments may be seen carefully cleaning the weapon inside and out.

The weapons showed usage, as well they might. They had been in many a battle and were destined to be used in many more.

The savage faces of the men and of the women as well were something new in Mexico City. They were the faces of conquerors, impressed with the knowledge of victory. These Indians had never seen such a city as this, but while they glanced curiously about they showed no sign of wonder and but few words were heard. The onlookers who packed the sidewalks and whose faces showed plainly enough their apprehension, had only been accustomed in the past to the Indians from the neighboring hills, whom centuries of practical slavery have endowed with a humility of manner and a shrinking from contact with those whom they regard as their rulers which was in marked contrast with the independent and unafraid air of the Sonora Indians. These were as unlike the local Indians as can be imagined. *They* were the conquerors, the rulers, and the people who thronged the sidewalks and gazed with very evident fear upon the fierce Indian faces, found their own timorous glances returned with anything but fear, and wondered how long it might be before these northern savages would be turned loose to rape and pillage and destroy. But they wondered and waited in vain! All their apprehensions came to naught. There was nothing of what they had so needlessly feared, and of what has become so familiar to the world since the savage Huns set out to outdo the savages of all the rest of the world since history began, and set themselves upon a pinnacle of devilish pre-eminence from which they will never be permitted to descend so long as books are read or memory lasts.

The entry of the conquering forces of General Obregon and their triumphal parade along the principal thoroughfares of the city marked the second historical epoch that the writer had the good fortune to witness.

To-day marked the third. Like that of four years ago, the event of to-day was purely military, with but negligible exceptions. But instead of the motley, ragged army of Obregon marched regiment after regiment, mile after mile, of well-uniformed, well-drilled men, equipped in modern fashion, officered by men in flashing gold-braided uniforms, mounted on gaily caparisoned horses, with bands playing, flags flying, and with flowers showered upon them from the balconies all along the line—a contrast marked enough to the sullen looks that met many of the selfsame men four years ago, only under different guise. To-day marked the completion of the evolution of a modern army in every detail from what was only the army by courtesy of hard knocks and victorious fighting of four years ago.

Gazing at these endless columns of men—marching as well and holding their formation as regularly as any troops the writer has ever seen—there came to his mind the recollection of a conversation that took place during the first months of the Revolution, back in 1913, when any man (or woman either, for that matter) was welcomed to the ranks who had a weapon, regardless of its character and regardless of uniform or other equipment. Said a foreigner to one of the staff of General Carranza with whom we were dining: "But you do not seem to pay much attention to organization and drill. I never see any of your men being drilled." The officer looked at the questioner for a moment. "We are doing our fighting first. After that is done, it will be time enough to organize and drill our men." And this has proved true enough. After the fighting was completed and the Revolutionists had won the control of the

Aviation Corps Passing the Alameda on Independence Day

Crowd at Independence Monument Watching Aeroplane Flights

country, then attention was paid to organization and drill, and the result was seen to-day in the thousands of men merching in perfect order, hour after hour, through the streets. Even the mules and horses have been trained, and the animals of the machine-gun batteries kept in perfect line and walked sedately along in just as good formation as the men.

The old khaki has disappeared entirely. Instead there are uniforms of dark blue with bright red stripes and facings, and with the military cap familiar to all who have studied pictures of the French troops in the present war. Canvas leggings and black shoes, the knapsack, blanket roll and canteen strapped fast to the back, and cartridges in clips or boxes attached to the belt, complete the equipment, not forgetting of course the all-necessary rifles, of which there are still three distinct models in use—the Mauser, the Winchester and the old-time Remington.

There was one exception to the regulation blue-and-red uniform, and this was a regiment of reserves which was clad in the old-time once familiar Confederate gray of the civil war period, and presented a sharp contrast in style as well as in color to the rest of the troops.

The procession was headed by the President and his Cabinet, with a personal escort of troopers, followed by the diplomatic corps, members of the Chamber of Deputies and other notables. There was no music at the head of the parade, and this portion of it moved so rapidly that it had come and gone before most of the spectators realized its advent and its character.

During the parade a corps of aviators flew about the city, looping the loop and performing all sorts of feats high in the thin air of this elevation.

The celebration extended over two days. On Sunday the President held a reception at the National Palace which presented certain interesting features. First the diplomatic representatives of the Allied Powers were received, and American Ambassador Fletcher, as the Dean of the Corps, made an address of congratulation, which was responded to by President Carranza. After they had retired, the ministers of the Central Powers were received and congratulations exchanged. This was followed by the reception of the representatives of the neutral powers, with similar ceremonies.

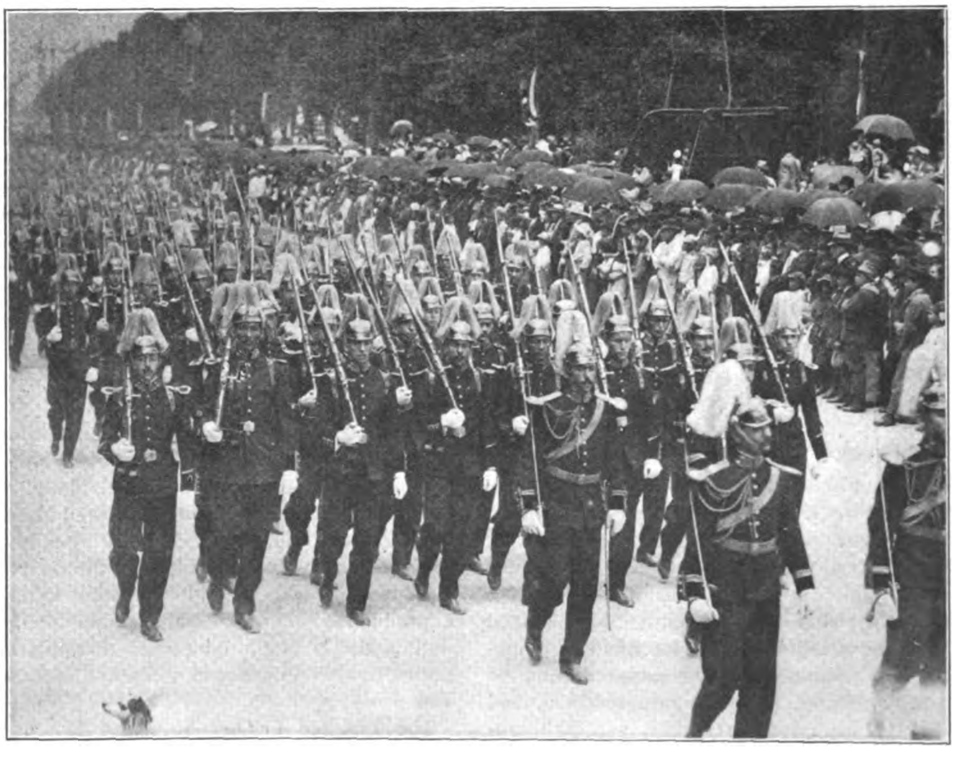
At midnight of Sunday the usual custom of giving the "Grito" or national salute was observed with all due form on the balcony in front of the National Palace. The famous Liberty Bell of Hidalgo, the counterpart of our own sacred Independence Bell, was rung by the President, who then in a loud voice repeated the words:

"Mexicanos:
"Viva la Independencia!
"Viva la Libertad!
"Viva Mexico!"

Prehistoric Human Remains

In the vicinity of Mexico City, at a locality locally known as the "Pedregal," or lava fields, some remarkable discoveries of prehistoric human remains were recently made. Some of these were found in a cavern which had in the remote past been almost completely filled with a flow of lava. Upon removing portions of this superincumbent deposit, human remains were found imbedded in the floor of the cavern, where they had been preserved for countless ages. Professor Ramon Mena, a geologist and student of note, has made a careful study of the discoveries and declares his belief that the remains are the most ancient of any in America, if not in the entire world. Similar remains discovered in Peru are believed from scientific study to be at least ten thousand years old, while these are even older. The skeletons unearthed are essentially different from any of American origin, the skulls in particular presenting many novel features. Much interest has been aroused among archaeologists and ethnologists by these discoveries and a society of students and professional men has been organized for their study.

During the season at least one train load of garbanzos entered the United States from Sonora, Mexico, at Nogales, Arizona, and on some days several train loads crossed the line. Wherever it is introduced this article of food meets with favor and its consumption is becoming general in many localities.



Cadets from National Military School in the Parade

In the Petroleum Field

Latest News From the Mexican Wells—Law Regarding Claims—Export Taxes—Development Notes

Export Taxes on Petroleum

UNDER date of September 13th, the Secretary of the Treasury has issued a circular establishing the valuations of petroleum for the purposes of taxation for the months of July-August and September-October. The circular recites that: Taking into consideration the new questions that some of the companies exporting crude petroleum and its products have brought before the Secretary of the Treasury, to reduce the valuations in conformity with Article 4 of the Law of April 13, 1917, and by the decrees of June 30 and October 16 of the same year, for crude and combustible petroleum, it has been thought best to order that, leaving without effect the aforementioned Circular No. 30, the following prices shall be established for the collection of imposts upon petroleum for exportation for the bimestral periods of July-August and September-October:

For combustible petroleum of a density of 0.91 per ton	$13.00
For crude petroleum of a density of 0.91	15.50
For petroleum of a density greater than 0.97	6.00
Gas oil	13.00
Refined gasoline in bulk or packages, per liter	12½c
Crude gasoline in bulk or packages, per liter	11¾c
Kerosene, crude or refined, in bulk or packages, per liter	4c

The rate of taxation is 10 per cent of the values given for petroleum and gas oil. The amount of the impost would therefore be $1.30 per ton on combustible petroleum, $1.55 per ton on crude petroleum of 0.91 density, and 60 cents per ton on that of a density of 0.97 or more. On gas oil the rate would be $1.30 per ton. These figures are in terms of Mexican gold. American gold is worth two to one in the former, while American paper currency is exchanged on a basis of $1.79 Mexican to $1 of the former. There being an average of seven barrels to the ton, it is easy to calculate the exact amount of the tax per barrel in American money. The tax rate on refined gasoline is three per cent and on crude gasoline and petroleum it is six per cent.

Regulating Petroleum Values for Taxation

A supplementary decree has been issued (September 17th) regarding the payment of taxes upon petroleum rights and contracts, with especial reference to cases in which these are payable "in kind." The decree specifies that petroleum with a density of 0.91 and which is valued at $15 per ton, shall be diminished in value 20 cents for each centesimo of density greater than the rate specified, and shall be increased forty cents per each centesimo of diminution, including in this rate petroleum of a density of 0.97. Petroleum whose density is more than 0.97 is to be valued at $6 per ton. The deduction for the cost of transportation through pipe lines is established at two cents per ton per kilometer.

Forty-eight Petroleum Companies Now in Production

The Department of Petroleum, under the Secretaryship of Industry, Commerce and Labor, has issued a report showing that there are now forty-eight petroleum companies in the productive stage. These companies are located in the Tampico, Tuxpam and Minatitlan districts, and their average monthly production is 214,832,971 (*sic*) tons. The order of importance of the various companies is said to be: The Corona Company, Chijoles Oil, Ltd., East Coast Oil Company, Freeport and Mexican Corporation, Mexican Oil Company, Monterrey Company, Mexico and Spain Company, Mexican Gulf Oil Company.

Information has been received by the Department that the Mexican Combustibles Company has brought in a well at Tamboyoche, State of Vera Cruz, which produces 5000 cubic meters, or more than 30,000 barrels, daily. This well is 705 meters, or about 2285 feet, in depth.

Oil Exports Constantly Increasing

The total amount of petroleum exported from the Tampico district for the month of August was 5,036,140.08 barrels, against 4,770,361 barrels in July. The shipments were divided as follows among the various companies: Huasteca, 1,563,759.22 barrels; Aguila, 709,772.27; Penn-Mex, 448,724.22; Freeport, 448,769.65; Island, 246,300.00; National Petroleum, 56,014.17; Mexican Gulf, 258,099.25; Texas Company, 177,866.76; East Coast, 331,750.84; Cortez, 309,500.00; Standard, 485,583.70.

The exports for July showed an increase of 1,038,109 barrels over the preceding month.

The total shipments for the first six months of the present year were 24,885,993 barrels, or an increase of 2,745,117 barrels over the same period of the previous year. The greater portion of these shipments was to the United States.

Two Big Wells Brought In

On September 10th the Texas Company reported a new well known as Tepetate No. 2, flowing at the rate of 25,000 barrels daily.

The Transcontinental Company's well known as Barberena No. 2, which was brought in some time ago, has been tested by the Government technical experts and is reported to have a production of 75,000 barrels daily. This well is the largest producer in that district. Both the above-mentioned wells are south of Tampico.

The Tampico *Tribune* of recent date gave reports of operations upon twenty-five different wells, of varying depths, such as 1607 feet, 1893 feet, 1507 feet, 2300 feet, 750 feet, 1760 feet, 2400 feet, 1070 feet, etc., as well as of preparations to begin several new wells.

Petroleum Taxes Paid by Exporters

The taxes paid by the heaviest exporters of petroleum from Mexico are indicated by the following returns for the months of March and April of this year:

Interocean Oil Company, $9,914.75; the Texas Company of Mexico, $9,432.30; New England Fuel Oil Company, $5,025.55; Mexican Gulf Oil Company, $17,841.65; Pierce Oil Company, $23,980.55; Freeport and Mexico, $51,297.65; Penn-Mex Fuel Oil, $231,772.95; East Coast Oil Company, $48,737.95; Huasteca Petroleum Company, $295,816.85; Standard Oil Company of New York, $254,197.75; Union Oil Company, $60,371.65; National Petroleum Company, $2,605.45; Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, $119,625.75; "El Aguila," S. A., $406,081.55. Total, $1,536,702.25.

Vast Extent of Mexico's Petroleum Measures

The Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Labor has compiled statistics regarding the extent of the petroleum measures of Mexico from which it appears that there are more than six hundred thousand kilometers of oil lands in the Republic, divided as follows: In the region of the Gulf of Mexico and the Peninsula of Yucatan, 341,500 kilometers; in the region of the Pacific Ocean, 191,000 kilometers; in the region of Lower California, 75,000 kilometers; total, 607,500 kilometers. Of this immense area, the portion now under exploration amounts to but 14,373 kilometers, while that wherein exploration has been just commenced amounts to 8507 kilometers. Less than four per cent of the area possessing oil has therefore as yet been explored.

Increased Exportation of Petroleum

The most recently published statistics of oil shipments show that during 1917 there was exported a total of 4,301,743 cubic tons of crude oil and 2,124,292 tons of refined oil, of a total value of $56,676,126.91. Of this the United States took 5,358,566 tons; England, 196,118 tons; Canada, 92,116 tons; Cuba, 14,593 tons; Santo Domingo, 2940 tons; Guatemala, 27,380 tons; Salvador, 1441 tons; Honduras, 21,766 tons; Nicaragua, 86,772 tons; Costa Rica, 29,959 tons; Ecuador, 791 tons; Peru, 1146 tons; Chile, 483,105 tons; Brazil, 33,824 tons; Uruguay, 46,085 tons; Argentina, 103,932 tons; France, 5000 tons; other points, 7480 tons.

In addition, the railroads of Mexico used 445,690 tons for fuel, of a total value of $2,538,649.69.

Notes of Petroleum Development

Permission has been granted by the Secretary of Industry and Commerce to the Texas Oil Company of Mexico to construct a pipe line from the Tepetate district to the Gulf of Mexico.

Permission has been granted to the Tepetate Petroleum Company to drill a well in the municipality of Amatlan, canton of Tuxpam, State of Vera Cruz.

A number of foreign companies organized for the purpose of engaging in the petroleum business in Mexico have asked for registration without first having complied with the laws of the country requisite for such purposes, especially in regard to the necessity of at least having a subsidiary organization in the Republic. Without such organization permission to register is uniformly refused.

Notice has been issued by the Secretary of Industry and Commerce that companies or persons who are given permission to exploit petroleum deposits must commence operations within six months from the date of such permission and must complete the preliminary exploration within one year thereafter. A period of ninety days is given thereafter within which to file an application for renewal of the original concession.

Work on the Port Lobos terminal, the new shipping point for the Tampico region, is progressing rapidly and satisfactorily. When completed it will be the largest petroleum transferring station in the world. There will be six sea loading lines, in berths of two lines each, made of ten-inch pipe.

The Corona Oil Company has received permission to construct a pipe line from its wells in the Panuco district to its shipping point in Tampico. The line will be 58 kilometers in length and of ten-inch pipe. Its capacity will be 25,000 barrels daily. The company has 27 steel storage tanks of a capacity of 55,000 barrels each, with three pumping stations. The cost of the pipe line alone will be $3,000,000 Mexican gold. This company has eight producing wells, one with a capacity of 35,000 barrels daily, another of 10,000 and the others of less yield.

The first wireless telephone plant in Mexico is being installed at Port Lobos by the Cortez Oil Company for communication with its plant at Saladero, 25 miles inland. The most approved system is used and satisfactory results are confidently predicted.

Extensive Development Being Arranged

Three big developments by very important interests are now planned, as a result of investigations made here in the past year, and the increase of the importance of this field will be tremendous when all is completed.

The interests which have determined to enter the Tampico district with developments on a large scale, and which already have preliminary plans being worked out, are:

The John Hays Hammond interests, known locally through the corporation International Petroleum Company.

The Atlantic Refinery Company, now being incorporated to take over the Producers' Terminal and Panuco-Boston properties.

The Union Oil Company of California, the largest independent on the Pacific Coast.

The investigation for the Hammond interests was made by Patrick Congdon, who made a report strongly recommending the entrance of the company in this field. His report will doubtless be acted upon as a final determining factor, and it is known that the report favors immediate action and a very large outlay here to carry out a program of big production and plants for the treatment at this point of petroleum.

Just how far the Union Oil Company intends to go is not very clear, but it is understood that the officials have decided that this field will provide for their future expansion, and besides the securing of production, it is also likely that the corporation will acquire terminals and petroleum treating plants in which to handle the production at the source and ship to a great extent the refined products. The Union has been in need of production for some time and has sent ships around from San Francisco to take cargoes of crude from this port. The company is awaiting the resumption of normal conditions before proceeding with its plans.

The first steps are being taken by Atlantic Refinery Company interests and the incorporation of a company to handle their business is said to have practically completed at Mexico City already. In the meantime some preliminary work is being done in the lower country, where production is to be secured, a railway laid out and sites acquired for terminals and refinery. The outlay will run to the millions of dollars it is said.

Plans for the doubling of the capacity of the Aguila refinery have been practically completed for some time now, but the material market has been such that it is unlikely that additions will be made for many months. Just as soon, however, as the movement of materials is free, this work will go forward.—*Tampico Tribune.*

Under-Water Oil Deposits

The oil industry, which now constitutes a powerful factor in the nation's wealth, has created a source of incalculable riches that with proper development will far surpass what all other resources have reached by years of wise political finance. This development can be attained by exploiting the great deposits of oil which exist not only beneath the earth, but also under the bed of the sea.

It is only about a year ago that the *Excelsior,* the only paper to publish an account of it, called attention to the discovery that Sr. Urbino after much study had made of the existence of oil under the sea. Great importance was attached to this discovery in foreign countries and many European and American papers gave it much prominence. At the same time experts in this particular field applied to our government for more detailed information on this interesting subject.

Sr. Urbino, to whom falls the honor of giving to his country the prestige of so sensational a discovery, said in his report that some years ago while engaged in the study of Mexican geology he learned by investigations the conditions of some portions of the strata of the tertiary terrain that borders the Gulf of Mexico, and that, together with the knowledge of the formation that constitutes it, was sufficient to make clear that its inclination toward the sea preserved the same character. Associating these observations with others made previously on the manner in which the oil fields in that same district are exploited and the location of these great accumulations of oil, he believed, and later was able to confirm his belief, that these accumulations would be found in like manner under the sea, susceptible of a similar development and of equal commercial value as those below the surface of the earth.

Sr. Urbino had the opportunity later to make observations on the coast of Sotaventa, in the State of Vera Cruz, where the work of locating new fields was in progress, and there he found the proof of his convictions and realized the great importance that would be derived from the oil industry in general and in particular for our country.

The result of the practical ends that may be obtained by the exploitation of mineral oil beneath the sea has been demonstrated to the Mexican geologist by the actual developments that have been carried to success on the coast of California in the Summerland field, where the southeastern extremity of an anticlinal is covered by the water of the sea, while its other extremity is out of the water, and notwithstanding that there the production is one or two barrels a day per well, the economic problem is proven and consequently with more certainty in our country, where the daily production is thousands of barrels in many of the wells.

Sr. Urbano called the attention of oil men and those charged with the duty of looking after the interests of the industry to the great importance of these new fields because of their vast extensions and of the equality of these deposits in quantity and quality of the oil, as also for the advantages they offer compared with the continental oil fields. The probability of finding the same extraordinary oil conditions in that part of the coast plains that are submerged beneath the sea as are found in the oil fields of Northeastern Mexico with its giant gushers is sufficient to awaken an interest that merits the examination of any data for or against this theory.

From the long and instructive treatise presented to the Department of Industry and Commerce by Sr. Urbino we select the following:

"The existence of submarine deposits of oil is based on the location in general; in the extension under the sea of the coast-oil regions that maintain the same geographical and geological conditions; in the presence of abundant evidences of oil on the surface of the water, as on the coast, and in the eruptions of oil from the bottom of the sea, which has been known for some time.

"The possible exploration and development of these deposits is based on the extensive area lying at little depth under the water, which is a continuation of the coast regions; in the equality of the conditions of these submarine deposits, in the abundance and quality of the product and the submarine accumulations that by the process of boring may be sunk to a depth of twenty meters below the water. Last, the oil region on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico is approximately 184,500 square kilometers. Of this 55,000 belong to Mexico and the rest to the United States."

Law Regarding Petroleum Lands

Decrees Regarding Denunciation of Petroleum Lands Issued by President Carranza

On August 8, 1918, the following decree was issued making certain changes in the application of Article 14 of the decree of February 19, 1918, regarding the denunciation of petroleum lands:

Venustiano Carranza, Constitutional President of the United States of Mexico, to its inhabitants—be it known:

That I have seen fit to reform the prescriptions covering the method of application of Art. 14 of the Decree of the 19th of February, 1918, reformed on the 31st of July, in the following terms:

Article 1. Beginning with the 16th of August of the present year, petroleum deposits on vacant lands can be denounced.

Art. 2. By petroleum deposits is understood a volume of indefinite depth, laterally bounded by the vertical lines which pass through the boundaries of a solid piece of land not less than four hectars in extent, intended for the exploitation of petroleum.

Art. 3. By petroleum exploitation is understood the extraction, the winning or the utilization of the following substances:

I. The petroleum which is found in natural beds, wells or pools.

II. The gaseous carburets of hydrogen in the subsoil, or that which escapes to the surface of the ground.

III. The natural deposits of ozokerite or of asphalt.

IV. Every mixture of carburets of hydrogen of the different groups, the origin of which is brought about by nature.

Art. 4. Land which has been given title for the exploitation of petroleum, or that on which a denouncement is pending, shall not be considered vacant.

Art. 5. Land the declaration on which might have been made by its proprietor to the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, in accordance with Arts. 14, 16 and I Transitory, of the Decree of the 31st of July of the present year, shall not be considered vacant; but the land which, having been declared, is not denounced by the party making the declaration, or by the party to whom the former grants his right of preference, within the three months following the 15th of the present month, decree, shall be vacant land.

Art. 6. Land which might have been contracted for petroleum development and declared before the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor in accordance with Arts. 14, 17 and I Transitory of the 31st of July of the present year, shall not be considered as vacant; but land which having been declared is not denounced by the party making declaration, or by the party to whom the former grants his right of preference, within three months following the 15th of the present month, shall be vacant.

Art. 7. Land which might have been contracted for petroleum exploitation and declared before the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, in accordance with Arts. 15 and 17 of the decree of the 31st of July of the present year, shall not be considered as vacant; but land which having been declared is not denounced by the party making the declaration who obtains the preference referred to in Art. 15 of the decree mentioned, or by the party to whom the former grants his right of preference, within the two months following the declaration of preference mentioned in the same Article of said decree, shall be vacant land.

Art. 8. Lands of common use, waste and national lands, town-sites (fundos legales) and commons (ejidos) not subdivided shall not be subject to claims.

Art. 9. Each claim shall refer to a single petroleum property.

Art. 10. Each applicant for a petroleum property shall submit his claims, in duplicate, to the proper Agent of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor; such claim shall contain the name, age, profession, domicile and nationality of the applicant, as well as the location, area, boundaries and other pertinent data necessary to identify the property in question.

Art. 11. If the applicant be an alien, he shall attach to his application a certificate of the Department for Foreign Affairs, establishing that he has complied with the requisites prescribed by Art. 27 of the Federal Constitution.

Art. 12. The applicant shall file with his claim a certificate from the Stamp Office, setting forth that he has deposited the value of the stamps to be affixed to his patent (titulo), according to the area of the property "denounced."

Art. 13. If the denouncer is a foreign company which might have previously made declaration on the lands they own or on the rights of exploitation of which they are the concessionaries, the denouncement shall be admitted and handling of the same continued; but the title shall be issued only to a private individual or to a Mexican company organized in conformity with the laws of the country, to whom the denouncing company may cede their rights.

Art. 14. The petitioner shall present, together with his denouncement, a certificate from the Stamp Department (Administracion del Timbre), in which is set forth that he has deposited the value of the stamps which should be placed on his title, according to the area of the deposit which he solicits.

Art. 15. The Agent of the Petroleum Section shall receive the denouncement and enter the same in his registry, noting thereon and on the original of the denouncement and on the copies, the date and hour of the presentation. The party making the denouncement can demand that these notes be made in his presence. If in the opinion of the Agent the denouncement be not sufficiently clear, he shall ask the party presenting the same for the necessary explanations, and shall set the same forth in the original, in the copies and in the book of registry. Lack of these explanations shall not be reason for omitting to enter the denouncement. The duplicate shall be returned with the respective notation by the person who presented it.

Art. 16. Within three days following the presentation of a claim, the Agent shall decide whether it is or is not to be admitted. In the former event, he shall dispatch it in accordance with the regular procedure; in the latter event, he shall set down in writing the grounds of his ruling, which shall be subject to review by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, on request submitted by the applicant to the same agent, so soon as the latter shall notify him of his ruling not to admit the claim or within the ensuing three days.

Art. 17. Whenever two or more claims presented simultaneously and referring to the same tract of land shall be declared to be admitted, the choice between the two claims shall be determined by lot, unless the preference as to the particular claim to be admitted shall be agreed upon between the interested parties.

Art. 18. When there are presented simultaneously several denouncements on different oil deposits, but which all contain a part in common, a raffle shall be affected of all the denouncements presented. If the denouncement favored by luck includes the others presented, for the fact alone shall the remaining denouncements affected by the raffle be definitely rejected; but if the denouncement so favored does not comprise but a part of the land denounced, the remaining part shall be submitted to a new raffle among all the denouncers, with the exception of the one favored in the first raffle. And if after the second raffle any part of the land should remain in question, in accordance with the same procedure until one or more raffles shall be effected should it be necessary. The raffles shall be held with intervals of three lawful days in order that the petitioners may present themselves on each one of them, with their denouncements duly drawn up. Those who do not attend the raffle to which they are invited shall lose for this reason their rights of primacy acquired on taking part in the first raffle.

Art. 19. So soon as an Agent shall admit a claim, he shall publish it on his Bulletin Board (Tabla de Avisos) for a month, and shall furthermore cause it to be published three times within this period in the Official Gazette (Diario Oficial) and in two other journals chosen from among those having the greatest circulation in the particular locality. The interested party shall take steps on his own account to see that the insertions are made.

Art. 20. The following shall constitute for counter claims (Oposicion which shall suspend action upon the claim:)

1. The total or partial invasion of a petroleum property on which patent has been granted, and which has not been declared forfeited.

2. The claim of the whole or a part of a property already denounced, submitted legally and prior to the attempted denouncement.

3. The non-completion of the term within which, under these regulations, preference is granted to any individual or corporation with regard to the whole or a property or a part thereof.

Art. 21. A counter claim based on any of the grounds set forth in the preceding article shall be submitted to the Agent of the Petroleum Bureau within 60 days reckoned from the date on which the claim shall have been published on the Bulletin Board of the Agency.

Art. 22. The counter claimant shall submit with his counter claim a certificate of the Chief Stamp Office setting forth that he has deposited the amount of the annual rental corresponding to the property in question, in accordance with Article 47 and 48 of this decree; no counter claim shall be admitted without the presentation of such certificate.

Art. 23. On the submission of the counter claim, the interested parties shall be summoned to a meeting at which every effort shall be made to reach an agreement; in this action the procedure set forth in the regulations of the mining law at present in force shall be observed. If it be impossible to reach an agreement, the interested parties shall forthwith be notified that the question of the counter claim may be settled either by administrative or judicial procedure.

A89. 24. If the interested parties fail to choose immediately the administrative procedure, action shall be suspended and the records transmitted within 48 hours to the judicial authorities for the institution of judicial proceedings. The counter claimant may only allege the grounds on which he based his original counter claim and which expressly appear in the record transmitted by the administrative authorities to the judicial authorities.

Art. 25. If the interested parties choose the administrative procedure for the settlement of their differences, the record of the case shall continue its usual course, in order that the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, after hearing both parties, may render its decision in the case.

Art. 26. When once the interested parties have chosen the administrative procedure, they shall not be permitted to resort to judicial proceedings; but if they have chosen the latter, they may, pending the rendition of the final judicial decree, submit the case to the ruling of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor.

Art. 27. Any ground for counter claim different from those laid down in Art. 20 hereof, shall be submitted to the Agent, who shall not, however, suspend the regular procedure of the record. The Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, so soon as it receive the case for review, shall decide whether the ground alleged shall or shall not be taken into account. In the former event, the case shall be heard and a ruling handed down, in accordance with the provisions of Arts. 23 to 26 hereof. Should the Department refuse to admit the counter claim, it shall act as if no counter claim had been submitted, but the rights of the counter claimant shall subsist.

Art. 28. The Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor may take into account during the review of the case any counter claim submitted, provided the counter claimant shall prove that he failed to submit his counter claim to the Petroleum Bureau Agent through no negligence of his own.

Art. 29. The denouncer of a petroleum deposit shall be declared as having abandoned his rights when he does not make the insertions established by Art. 19, within the terms fixed in said Article, or does not make the explanations which are asked from him in order to dispatch his denouncement within the term fixed for same, or does not attend the meetings of agreement when the opposition to the same denouncement is presented. Any such failure shall cause the denouncer to lose the deposit to which Art. 14 refers.

Art. 30. The counter claimant who shall fail to attend any of the meetings for the purpose of effecting an agreement shall be deemed to have desisted from his counter claim, except in the case of "Force Majeure."

Art. 31. Every counter claimant who shall desist from his counter claim, or whose counter claim shall prove to be not well grounded shall forfeit the deposit prescribed by Art. 22 hereof, which deposit shall be applied to the payment of the rental for one year on the property, reckoned from the date of the claim.

Art. 32. Should no final ruling on the claim be handed down within a year, the applicant and the counter claimant shall each deposit the amount of rental for one year in the Chief Stamp Office; the same procedure shall be observed each year until a final ruling is given.

The deposit or deposits of the party in whose favor the final ruling is rendered shall be applied to the payment of the rental on the property, and the deposit or deposits of the party against whom the decision is rendered shall be applied to the Federal budget in the form of diverse profits (Aprovechamientos); not being subject to the rights of the former to make claim against the latter for the corresponding indemnization in the cases in question.

Art. 33. The Secretary of Industry, Commerce and Labor may excuse the failure to attend a meeting of conciliation in case of opposition when the denouncer proves, within the term of the procedure or during the revision of the papers, that it was caused by events which he could not control.

Art. 34. If no counter claim which shall cause the suspension of the regular administrative procedure of the case shall be presented within the period of 60 days allowed, the Petroleum Bureau Agent shall transmit to the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor a record of the case as of that date.

Art. 35. Patents (Titulos) covering petroleum properties shall be issued through the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, after the Petroleum Bureau shall have received the records submitted by the Agent. These patents grant legal possession of the respective properties, without the necessity of any other formality.

Art. 36. Outside of the cases set forth in Art. 13, the titles shall be granted without detriment to a third party in favor of the denouncer. In order that they may be granted in favor of another party, it will be necessary to prove the transfer of the right of the denouncer in favor of this party through the proper instrument. The interested party shall prove having paid the corresponding rental on his deposit before receiving the title.

Art. 37. In community lands which have not been legally contracted for the exploitation of petroleum, the co-owners alone can denounce petroleum deposits, and the procedure in connection with the denouncement shall be suspended until all the co-owners or their representatives meet before the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, called together by name, with sufficient previous notice, in order to make a clear and proven declaration of their individual rights; and upon agreement, they shall receive a title in common to the petroleum deposit, which shall cover the subsoil of the land "pro indiviso." In this title the representation of each co-owner shall be set forth. The notice of meeting to the co-owners shall be posted on the board of notices of the Petroleum Agency during a term of sixty days; it shall be published three times during the same period in the Official Gazette (Diario Oficial), and in two papers of the largest circulation in the locality. The Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor shall have the power of appointing a commission charged to take up with whom it may concern the granting of the property titles to the co-owners.

Art. 38. After the lapse of a period of ninety days, counting from the date of the notice of meeting referred to in the foregoing Article, in which some of the co-owners of the community in question failed to present themselves, the co-owners who do not present themselves shall be considered as having desisted, and the title to the corresponding deposit shall be granted, after the provisions of this law are complied with, to the co-owners who present themselves. When those present do not claim the title to the petroleum deposits on all the community land, it will be granted to them for the part which they desire and the rest shall be declared vacant land.

Art. 39. At any time may the concessionary of a petroleum deposit petition its reduction. The petition shall be presented to the Petroleum Agency with a map of the reduced petroleum deposit and the original title. The new title shall cancel the former and shall not be subject to the stamp tax for the granting of the title; but the concessionry shall be obliged to place the monuments of the reduced deposit within the term fixed by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor. Once the reduction is agreed to, the remaining land shall be declared vacant.

Art. 40. The grantee of a property may extract therefrom all substances mentioned in Art. 3 hereof, without any other limitation than that of not trespassing by means of his extraction work on adjoining properties and that of complying with the provisions of these regulations and of such other regulations as may later be enacted on petroleum development.

Art. 41. Operators of a petroleum property may occupy within the boundaries of a property, subject to authorization of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, the surface area necessary for the work of extraction and for the immediate storage of the oil extracted, paying in such event to the interested party corresponding indemnification, any judicial action instituted thereunder shall not retard the carrying out of the work.

Art. 42. Operators of a petroleum property shall acquire easements of passage and of pipe lines, on obtaining permission from the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor; they may likewise build such pipe lines and pumping stations as the development of the property requires on payment to the interested parties of proper compensation.

Art. 43. Operators of a petroleum property shall have the right to establish storage tanks and refineries, subject to the approval of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, and to the assent of the owners of lands it is sought to occupy. In event of failure to obtain such assent, condemnation proceedings of the area necessary for such work shall be instituted.

Art. 44. Operators of petroleum properties shall have the right to build wharves, loading stations and submarine lines, subject to the approval of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, and in conformity with the provisions enacted on the subject by the Departments of Finance and Public Credit and of Communications and Public Works.

Art. 45. Only the respective grantees shall have the right to build storage tanks or refineries on petroleum properties.

Art. 46. The grantee of a petroleum property may enjoy the surface waters for the needs of his operations, in pursuance of the common law on the subject. He may use the sub-soil waters, for the same purpose, subject to the approval of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, and by means of the corresponding compensation to whomsoever may be thereto entitled.

Art. 47. The concessionary of a petroleum deposit on land contracted shall pay the tax established in Arts. 2, 3 and 5 of the decree of the 31st of July of the present year, making in the cases in which he may proceed, the payment which is established by Art. 12 of this same law.

Art. 48. The concessionary of a petroleum deposit on land which has not contracted, shall pay an annual rental of five pesos per hectare and a royalty of five per cent of the production.

Art. 49. The rental shall be due and payable from the date of the claim and shall be paid in periods of two months each in advance; payment shall be made during the first fortnight of each period of two months.

Art. 50. Within the period of one year from the date of the issue of a patent covering a petroleum property, the interested party shall build boundary manks at the vertices and other clearly defined points and such other intermediary boundary marks as are necessary to make each boundary mark readily visible from the one next before; he shall be bound also to present in duplicate to the Petroleum Bureau the plat of the land thus marked out. This plat shall fulfill the requirements of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, and the ratification or rectification of the patent shall be in conformity with such plat.

If the concessionary does not comply with this obligation, the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor shall impose upon him a fine varying from 50 to 1000 pesos, according to the importance of the deposit and the frequency of the cases of default, and he may order this work done for account of the interested party.

Art. 51. The interested party shall, within two years reckoned from the issue of the patent, submit in duplicate to the Petroleum Department the plans and descriptive data relating to the proposed work for the development of the petroleum property. These plans and data shall follow the requirements fixed by the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor.

If the concessionary does not present the documents prescribed in this Article, the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor shall impose upon him a fine varying between 50 and 1,000 pesos, according to the importance of the deposit, and shall indicate to him a new period of time in which to present them, he being unable to begin the work of exploitation without having complied with this requirement.

Art. 53. The ratification or rectification mentioned in Article 50 hereof, may be made at the request of the owner of the property, of interested adjoining owners, or as a matter of course by a ruling of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor. In this last event, the final ruling of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor shall not effect the rights of the owners of the petroleum property nor of those of the adjoining owners who believe their interests prejudiced.

Art. 54. Grantees of petroleum properties shall be bound to furnish the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor such technical and economic data as it may demand through the Petroleum Bureau; they shall likewise be bound to admit on their properties pupils from public schools who may be sent for a practical study of petroleum industry, and to afford them every facility in their task. The obligations shall likewise be imposed upon the grantees of pipe lines, refineries, storage tanks, and loading stations.

Art. 55. Patents to petroleum properties shall be forfeited for the following reasons: Through failure to pay the tax referred to in Articles 47 and 48 hereof; through failure to comply with the conditions laid down in Articles 52 and 54; through suspending work for a period of six consecutive months without cause, after the work of development shall have begun; or through any grave infraction of the "Regulations of Development." (Reglamento de Explotacion.)

Art. 56. Forfeiture shall be declared by the administrative authorities through the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor, after opportunity shall have been given to the interested party to be heard in his own defense.

Art. 57. In the event of forfeiture through failure to pay the rental prescribed the corresponding declaration shall be made within four months following the period of two months within which the failure to make such payment occurred.

In the case of forfeiture through failure to pay the royalty prescribed, the declaration shall be made within the period of two months following that in which the ground for forfeiture occurred.

Art. 58. In the case of the declaration of forfeiture of any petroleums property, patent to which shall have been issued to any assignees, such property shall only be subject to claim during the three months following the declaration of forfeiture, by the preceding assignees and by the owner of the surface of the property, who, to this end, shall make a declaration in the form prescribed in Article 4 of the decree of May 18, 1918, in order that the Petroleum Agent of the Department of Industry, Commerce and Labor may admit the claim of the last assignee of the right of development.

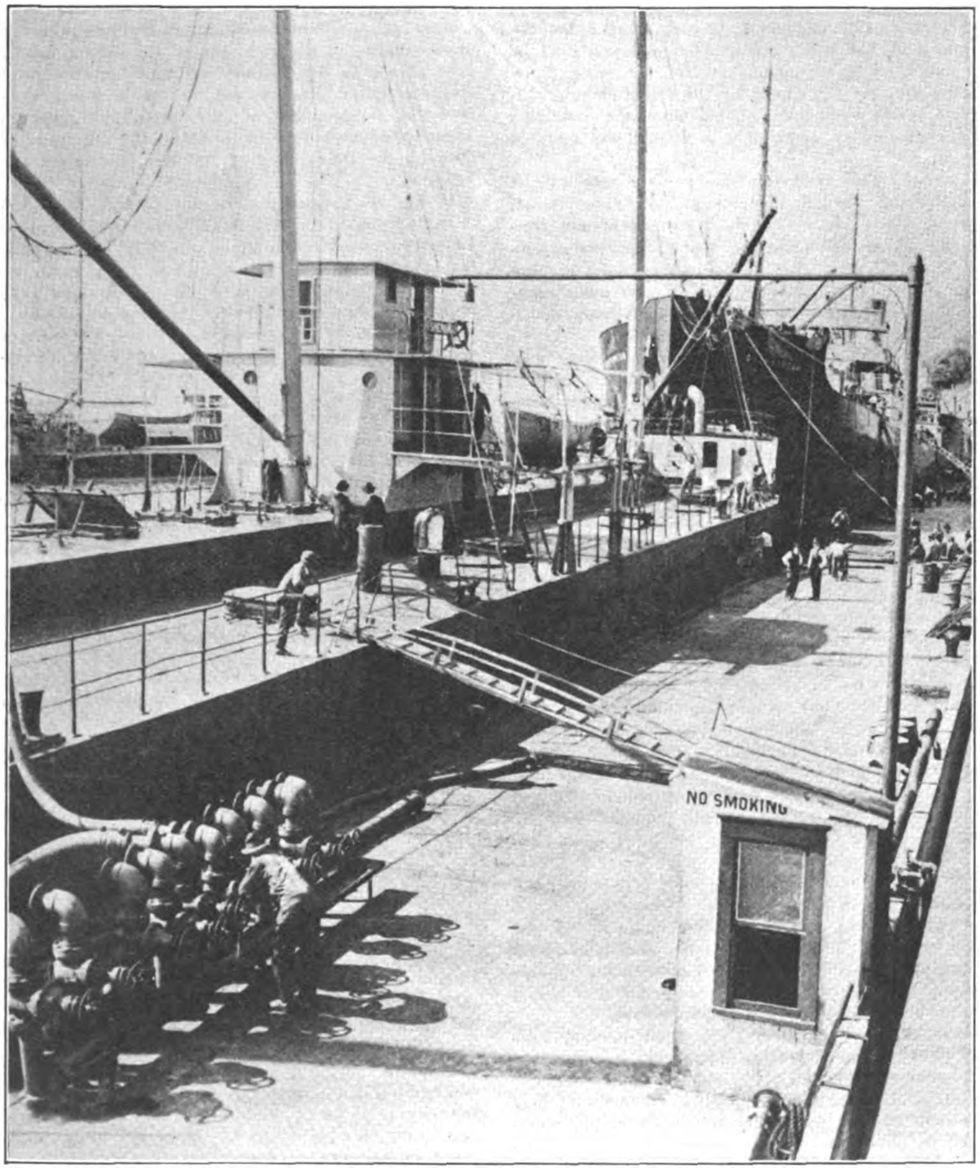
If the property whose patent shall have been declared forfeited be operated by a third party through a contract still in force such contract shall subsist, the new assignee taking the place of the former assignee for the purposes of said contract.

Art. 59. The direct operator of a property, officially recognized as such, whose patent shall have

(*Concluded on page 11*)

The World's Petroleum Production

Yield of the United States as Compared With That of Other Oil Yielding Countries



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TURNING OUT OIL TO HELP WIN THE WAR

Loading big tank ships with oil for export. The man in the lower left hand corner of this photo is operating the loading apparatus. Scene at Port Arthur, Texas, where much Mexican oil is handled

THE increasing demand for petroleum and its products, both in the United States and the world at large, lends interest to a compilation by the National City Bank of New York showing world production of petroleum and the share thereof by the United States from the earliest date of that industry down to 1917. This compilation shows that the United States in 1917 produced 342,000,000 barrels of crude oil, against 300,000,000 in 1916, 210,000,000 in 1910, and 64,000,000 in 1900, and that this country now produces two-thirds of the oil of the world. Of the world's output of crude petroleum, the United States supplied 66 per cent in 1916 against 64 per cent in 1910; 43 per cent in 1900; 60 per cent in 1890, and 88 per cent in 1880. The world production of petroleum in 1916 is stated at 461,000,000 barrels of 42 gallons each, against 427,000,000 barrels in 1915; 328,000,000 in 1910; 149,000,000 in 1900; 77,000,000 in 1890; 30,000,000 in 1880, 6,000,000 in 1870, and about a half million barrels in 1860. The world production of 1917 is estimated at about 500,000,000 barrels.

Our total production of petroleum in 1917 was larger than in any earlier year, exceeding that of 1916 by 42,000,000 barrels. The world production in 1916 was larger than in any earlier year, exceeding that of 1915 by 34,000,000 barrels. For 1917 there are no complete figures of world production owing to the absence of data on production in Russia and Roumania in that year. While presumably there was a large fall-off in production in Russia in 1917, the fact that the United States' output increased about 40,000,000 barrels and that of Mexico increased 16,000,000 may make the total world production of 1917 about 500,000,000 barrels.

The United States has been the world's largest producer of petroleum continuously since the development of petroleum production, except in the period 1898-1901, in which period Russian production slightly exceeded that of the United States, the product of the United States in 1898 being 55,000,000 barrels, Russia 62,000,000; in 1899, United States 57,000,000, Russia 66,000,000; in 1900, United States 64,000,000, Russia 76,000,000; and in 1901, United States 69,000,000, Russia 85,000,000. Beginning with 1902, however, the product of the United States exceeded that of Russia by 8,000,000 barrels, and the excess of our production over that of Russia, our chief competitor in the world's oil field, has rapidly increased, so that in 1914 our own output was nearly four times as much as that of Russia, the 1914 figures of production being for the United States 266,000,000 barrels against 67,000,000 barrels produced by Russia. Russia's largest production in any year was in 1901, 85,000,000 barrels, falling to 67,000,000 in 1914, while in the case of the United States the product of 1901 was 69,000,000 barrels, having advanced meantime to 266,000,000 in 1914, 292,000,000 in 1915, and to 300,000,000 barrels in 1916, and 342,000,000 in 1917, the United States figures for recent years being those of "marketed product."

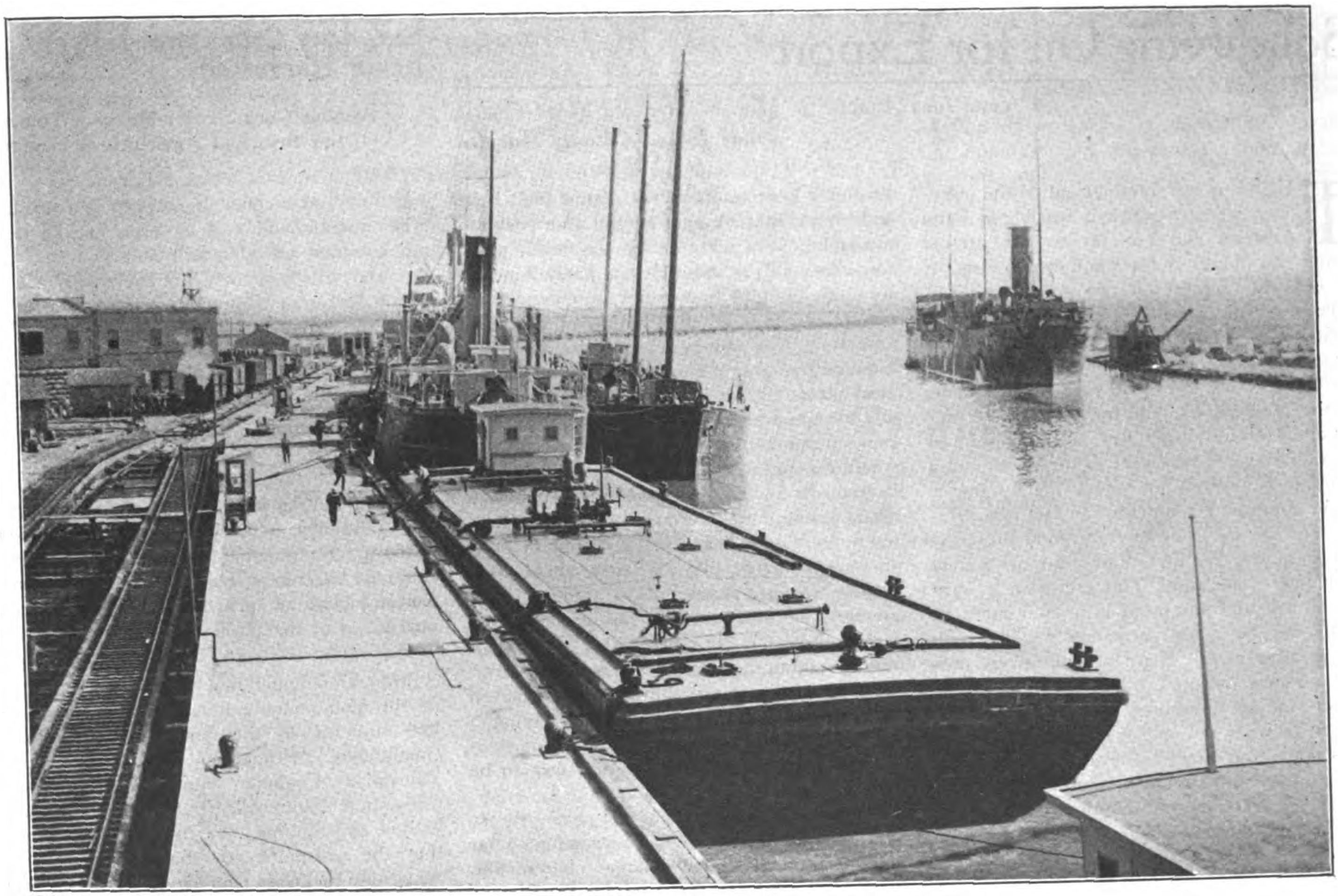
The world's principal mineral oil producers and their output in 1916 were: United States, with a product of 300,000,000 barrels; Russia, 75,000,000; Mexico, 40,000,000; Roumania 10,000,000; Dutch East Indies, 13,000,000, and India, 8,000,000 barrels.

The principal production of the United States by States was, in 1916: California, 91,000,000 barrels; Oklahoma, 107,000,000; Illinois, 18,000,000; Texas, 28,000,000; Louisiana, 15,000,000; West Virginia, 9,000,000; Ohio, 8,000,000, and Pennsylvania, 8,000,000 barrels, the figures being in very round terms. The chief increase in 1917 occurred in the "Oklahoma-Kansas" district, which showed a gain of 32,000,000 barrels out of the total gain of 42,000,000 barrels in the United States in 1917.

The United States, despite the fact that she is by far the world's largest produced of petroleum, is becoming of late a considerable importer, the quantity of crude petroleum imported in the fiscal year 1915 being 652,000,000 gallons; in 1916, 871,000,000, and in 1917, 1,079,000,000, a very large proportion of this coming from Mexico and seeking a market in the United States because of her superior facilities for refining the crude product.

SUMMARY BY DISTRICTS

	BBLS.	
Appalachian...........	23,009,000	$ 56,689,000
Lima, Indiana.........	3,905,000	6,117,000
Illinois................	17,714,000	29,237,000
Mid-Continent.........	136,934,000	162,817,000
Gulf..................	21,768,000	16,417,000
California..............	90,952,000	53,703,000
Rocky Mountain.......	6,476,000	5,905,000
Other Districts........	8,000	14,000
TOTAL.........	300,767,000	330,900,000



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MEXICAN OIL UNLOADING AT PORT ARTHUR, TEXAS

A big oil dock at Port Arthur, Texas. In the foreground are two tank barges used in shipping oil from Mexican ports to American ports, and the ships are tankers in the import and export trade

IMPORTS OF CRUDE MINERAL OIL SINCE 1900

Fiscal	Gallons	Value
1900	2,374,000	$ 220,000
1902	12,148,000	172,000
1902	3,235,000	193,000
1903	3,708,000	227,000
1904	4,654,000	281,000
1905	10,001,000	494,000
1906	15,453,000	779,000
1907	26,136,000	1,306,000
1908	9 331,000	447,000
1909	7,206,000	330,000
1910	13,695,000	610,000
1911	38,776,000	2,144,000
1912	160,502,000	3,654,000
1913	510,661,000	7,437,000
1914	773,052,000	11,777,000
1915	653,708,000	8,819,000
1916	869,369,000	12,206,000
1917	1,034,591,000	14,109,000

MARKETED PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM BY STATES IN 1916

STATES	BBLS	VALUE
California	90,952,000	$ 53,703,000
Colorado	197,000	217,000
Illinois	17,714,000	29,237,000
Indiana	769,000	1,208,000
Kansas	8,738,000	10,340,000
Kentucky and Tennessee	1,203,000	2,190,000
Louisiana	15,248,000	14,670,000
Montana	45,000	44,000
New York	874,000	2,190,000
Ohio	7,745,000	16,155,000
Oklahoma	107,072,000	128,464,000
Pennsylvania	7,592,000	19,150,000
Texas—Northern	9,303,000	11,835,000
Texas—Coastal	18,342,000	13,952,000
West Virginia	8,731,000	21,914,000
Wyoming	6,234,000	5,644,000
Other States	8,000	14,000
TOTAL	300,767,000	330,900,000

Year	World Bbls.**	United States Bbls.	States Per Cent of Total
1860	509,000	500,000	98
1865	2,716,000	2,498,000	92
1870	5,799,000	5,261,000	91
1875	9,977,000	8,788,000	88
1880	30,018,000	26,286,000	88
1885	36,765,000	21,859,000	59
1890	76,633,000	45,824,000	60
1895	103,663,000	52,892,000	51
1900	149,132,000	63,621,000	43
1905	215,361,000	134,718,000	63
1910	327,616,000	209,557,000	64
1911	345,685,000	220,449,000	64
1912	352,485,000	222,935,000	63
1913	384,668,000	248,446,000	65
1914	400,483,000	265,763,000	66
1915	426,893,000	281,100,000	66
1916	460,639,000	300,767,000	65
1917	*503,708,000	342,000,000	68

*Estimated.

**Marketed Production.

WORLD PRODUCTION OF PETROLEUM

Countries	1916 Barrels	1917 Barrels
United States	*300,767,000	*342,000,000
Russia	72,801,000	65,000,000
Mexico	39,817,000	55,293,000
Dutch E. Indies	13,174,000	14 000,000
Roumania	10,298,000	6,000,000
India	8,229,000	8,500,000
Galicia	6,462,000	5,500,000
Japan & Formosa	2,997,000	2,800,000
Peru	2,551,000	2,500,000
Trinidad	1,000,000	1,685,000
Germany	996,000	900,000
Argentina	870,000	800,000
Egypt	411,000	500,000
Estimated Total	460,639,000	503,708,000

*Marketed Production.

LAW REGARDING PETROLEUM LANDS

(Continued from page 9)

been declared forfeited, and not being the grantee of the property shall enjoy a preferential right of denouncement, valid within 30 days following the term granted in the foregoing Article to the several assignees of the right of development and to the owner of the surface of the property, provided none of them shall have made use of these rights.

He shall likewise enjoy this preference in the cases of forfeiture not included in the foregoing Article, within the 30 days following the date on which the declaration of forfeiture shall have been affixed on the Bulletin Board of the respective agency.

Art. 60. Every property comprising leased lands, patent to which shall have been declared forfeited, shall be deemed to be "free land," on the expiration of the terms fixed in the two foregoing Articles and of the 30-day period from the date on which the declaration that the land is subject to claim shall have been affixed on the Bulletin Board of the respective agency.

Art. 61. Every property comprising lands not leased, title to which shall have been declared forfeited, shall be deemed to be "free lands," 30 days after the declaration of forfeiture shall have been affixed to the Bulletin Board of the respective agency.

Transitory Articles

I. It shall only be permitted to denounce deposits in lands, the area of which is less than four hectares, when they exist in the same at the present time wells producing or wells being drilled, the latter covered by permits previously granted and providing that said lands have been declared in accordance with the decree of the 31st of July of the present year.

II. The decree of the 8th of July of the present year, and all the laws and dispositions wherein they conflict with the present law, are cancelled.

Given in the Palace of the Executive Power of the Union, on the 8th of August, 1918.

V. CARRANZA.

Solidifying Oil for Export

A Novel Idea Adapted to Mexico Advanced by an English Trade Journal—Easily Adopted

THERE is one development of the petroleum industry which is feasible in Latin America and (so far as the present writer can judge) is feasible nowhere else. It depends for success on two conditions: (1) abundance and cheapness of crude oil; (2) difficulty of transport. It might be thought that the second condition would neutralize the first, as has been the case, for example, in the Mexican oil industry, where an abundant and cheap supply has been handicapped by a shortage of transport to the coast, and a shortage of vessels to convey the oil thence to the consuming countries. In fact, the prospects of any oil field, however good they may be, can be wrecked by lack of transport, except in one particular case. This exception is when the oil can be transported in a solid form.

Oil can be made permanently solid with comparative ease. There are numerous processes—some patented, others supposed to be secret—for accomplishing this result; and the reason they are not employed is that as a rule it is more convenient to have oil in its liquid state. Especially is this so to-day, when oil is many times more valuable than it was seven or eight years ago, when most of these processes were talked of.

By the heating of the oil, and the admixture of a substance well known and very common, as well as cheap, the oil was quickly converted into a substance which, when cold, took on a solid form. In order that this form should be permanent, it was necessary to add, during the latter part of the mixing, a small quantity of another well known and cheap article, known as the "binder." If this was properly done, the oil, on cooling, assumed the form of a permanent solid; it could be cut into bricks, blocks, or slices, and when burned in a furnace did not melt, but retained its solid form until consumed.

All varieties of crude oil, and most products, could be so treated. Lamp oil that had undergone this process, and had been solidified, could be cut up afterwards into small slices that were exceedingly handy for lighting fires, boiling a kettle, and other operations for which only a limited amount of flame and heat was required. The large blocks of solid crude oil could be used with advantage as locomotive or other furnace fuel; and a test made on a British express train was entirely satisfactory, the journey being accomplished on this fuel to schedule time with the greatest ease.

It will be seen that, while pipe lines and tank steamships, so useful for transporting liquid oil, are out of place with the solid fuel, the latter can be carried by ordinary cargo vessels, railway trucks, road vehicles, and even by mules or camels or human porters. In Latin America there are many industries requiring fuel. Liquid fuel would in most cases be preferred if it could be delivered cheaply and transported easily; but solid oil fuel can become a keen competitor of liquid fuel if the ordinary means of road or rail transport are available. It would require too much space to discuss all the industries of Latin America to which solid oil fuel would come as a boon; but reference may be made to the mining industry. You cannot choose the site of a mine as you would choose the site of, say, a steel plant. The site is fixed by nature, and you have to work where nature permits. The consequence is that many mines are situated where transport is difficult, and where the delivered cost of liquid fuel would be prohibitive. These mines must, of course, have solid fuel; but it would be found, if a supply of solid oil were available, that the latter would probably be cheaper than coal on account of its greater efficiency, and also on account of its greater economy in space, the rectangular blocks leaving no vacant places. Moreover, the solid oil gives practically no ash, so that in transporting this fuel one is not carrying a large percentage of useless matter. For mining conditions the solid oil would seem to be the most suitable fuel available.

It may be asked, Why has not some process for the solidification of oil been adopted on a large scale, if the advantages claimed for it are real? In brief, the answer is as follows: At the time when the solidifying processes were worked out, crude oil, in most oil fields, was abundant and cheap, and would have repaid the cost of a plant to solidify it. Consequently, large interests such as the Burmah Oil Company and some of the Mexican companies negotiated with the view of adopting one or other of these processes. But, to obtain the best results the plants erected would have to be on a large scale, and the plans for these plants, which would have been a great novelty, required some time to work out. In the meantime, the market value of crude oil, in almost all parts of the world, began to rise, and has continued to advance practically without a break to the present day. This increase in price meant that it was better business to retain the oil in its liquid form, and refine it to obtain the various products (petrol, lamp oil, lubricating oils, and so on) than it was to solidify the crude and sell it as fuel. So the projects for creating large solidifying plants came to a stop.

In the present condition of the oil industry there is only one country, among those producing oil on a large scale, where the solidifying process could be carried out with any hope of commercial success. That country is Mexico; there not being enough transport facilities, either ashore or afloat, to transport the oil in its liquid state. By a coincidence, Mexico is the nearest great oil field to Central and South America, whose customers peculiarly need oil fuel in a solidified state. Once a plant is created the solidifying process is not a costly one, especially if carried out on a large scale.—*British and Latin-American Trade Gazette.*

Excellent Crops are Being Harvested

Famous Corn Expert Makes a Tour of the Principal Agricultural Regions

"THE privations which Mexicans have suffered on account of scarcity of corn and other cereals will end as soon as the new crops, which are abundant and sufficient for the needs of the country, are harvested." Thus Señor Zeferino Dominguez, who has been called the "Apostle of Corn" and who has for many years worked untiringly to make Mexico a purely agricultural country, expressed himself recently.

Señor Dominguez has just returned from a trip through the greater part of the States where, at the suggestion of the Department of Fomento and Agriculture, he went to give lectures and demonstrations on the cultivation of corn. He traveled by rail more than six thousand kilometers in a special car which was converted into an agricultural museum for the instruction of the farmers in modern methods of cultivating the land.

Señor Dominguez said that the greater part of the land under cultivation over which he had traveled in the States of Queretaro, Guanajuato, Michoacan, San Luis Potosi, Tamaulipas, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Durango, Chihuahua, Aguascalientes, Hidalgo, Mexico, Jalisco and Colima, are perfectly tilled and that the prospects are the most flattering. According to Señor Dominguez the crops that are grown will not only be sufficient for these States, but will supply other less favored parts of the country.

In every place he visited he held conferences on the subject of agriculture, showing the urgent necessity of cultivating the land intelligently and of employing modern methods to increase the yield. More than fifty thousand farmers were at these meetings and showed themselves greatly interested in all that Señor Dominguez recommended and which he explained in all its details. The result of the journey will be that the agriculturists will abandon their crude methods of tilling the land and in the future will give attention to fertilization, selection of seeds and sowing in the proper manner.

In the rich Laguna district, where modern methods in farming are followed, employing machinery for cultivating and harvesting the crops, the best results have been obtained by these favored farmers.

On the journey Señor Dominguez collected in an album the opinions of many prominent men, governors, high military chiefs and men of science and agriculturists. The greater part of them concur in the opinion that the true independence of Mexico can only be obtained when she has become self-supporting from an agricultural point. Others expressed themselves that in our country, unfortunately, the farmer is not esteemed for his true worth, and that a man dedicated to the cultivation of the ground is superior to a conqueror or a warrior, taking into account the labor expended by each of these.

Lord Cowdray Discusses Oil

He Says That British Production is Vital to Her Maintenance of Ocean Power—The American Situation

A DISPATCH from London announcing that Lord Cowdray plans to spend $2,500,000 in drilling for oil in England, but that operations have been held up awaiting the arrival of machinery ordered from the United States last fall, adds interest to the following letter from Lord Cowdray to the *Westminster Gazette*. Lord Cowdray says:

"In the course of the debate in the House of Commons on Wednesday last my firm was mentioned in connection with the development of petroleum in the United Kingdom. I venture, therefore, to draw the attention of your readers to the position which exists, and to certain views I hold thereon.

"Extensive studies carried out by my scientific staff during the last three and a half years lead me to the conclusion that, notwithstanding the long-established opinion to the contrary, the possibilities of securing a commercial production of oil in Great Britain are of a distinctly promising nature, and we have from time to time advised the Admiralty to this effect.

"Experience in America has shown that the policy of uncontrolled working, and that on small areas, is a national blunder. Moreover, this method of working has produced wild speculation, and has resulted in the most deplorable waste. According to American scientific estimates, there is only oil in sight in that great continent for another twenty-nine years. This situation is causing serious disquietude to the Government of the United States.

"This is the position which the United Kingdom will have to face if unorganized and uncontrolled drilling be permitted.

"In June last I was approached by the Admiralty with a view to immediate drilling as a war measure. At that time my firm were negotiating with certain landlords with a view to arranging leases. It must be remembered that, dependent on the nature of the strata, a well will drain oil for a distance varying from a few yards to a few miles. As we were not in control of anything approaching the areas, requisite to obviate the evils of the small block system, my reply to the Admiralty was that I recommended a system of national drilling licenses as the only sound policy for the nation.

"From the production point of view, I am not concerned whether royalty shall or shall not be paid to landlords, but I am concerned with the preservation of what should become a great national industry. So little is known by the public about oil that its interest in the question is but lukewarm. No one can say for certain whether the United Kingdom will produce oil or not. This only the drill can prove. My American expert advisers (whose opinion I value) tell me that they think that oil will be found in commercial quantities.

"Recognizing as I do that the potential wealth of the United Kingdom in oil is as essential for our mercantile marine of the future as coal has been in the past, I beg the public to realize the importance of the issue I am raising. My ambition is to see this industry born and reared, so that the nation may benefit to the full, not only from a new source of great possible wealth, but from the conservation of a factor vital to its maintenance as a great Ocean Power.

"With this object we have made alternative offers to the Government, subject to the passing of the necessary act to safeguard the industry, offers which are still open:

"(a) For the period of the war to place at the disposal of the Government, free of all cost, the services of my firm and geologic staff, for the purposes of exploration and development.

"(b) If the Government does not wish to risk public money on what must be deemed a speculative enterprise, we are prepared to drill, at our own risk and expense as licensees, subject to certain areas being reserved to us.

"This offer committed my firm to a probable expenditure of £500,000.

"Operating, as the Government now suggests, without legislation and under the Defence of the Realm act, the position of the Government is that of a temporarily legalized trespasser, and after the war the benefit of national expenditure will revert to the owner of the land. The country will have run the risk, others will be entitled to the post-war gains. Even if the Acquisition of Lands act applies, and I am advised it does not, it means that the nation must acquire in each case the land necessary to protect the whole oil pool, which may even amount to thousands of acres, not at normal values, but at a price having regard to its being a proved oil property.

"More serious, however, than the financial losses which working under the Defence of the Realm act will entail is the result that, presuming drilling be successful and oil proved, vested interests will have been created throughout the country, and, as a consequence, the legislation essential to the welfare of the industry will then meet with opposition many times stronger than that with which it is confronted to-day.

"My earnest hope is that Parliament, being apprised of the situation, will not allow this nascent industry to be sacrificed on the altar of indecision merely because those interested for and against a royalty are not willing to come to a compromise."

The company which controls all the electric street-car lines of Mexico City and suburbs has recently extended its service to the more remote outskirts and country villages by establishing regular automobile bus lines, each machine having a capacity of twenty-five passengers. It is stated that not only is better time made, but the cost of operation is less than by the rail system.

Persons detected in exporting metals whose shipment is forbidden are punishable by a fine of five times the amount of the ordinary duty. Formerly the punishment was confiscation of the entire product smuggled.

Proposed Permanent Exhibit

West Coast Products to be Established Contiguous to the Boundary Line

PLANS are being considered in Nogales, Sonora, for a permanent exhibit of the products and resources of the Mexican West Coast, to be located close to the international boundary line on the Mexican side near Nogales.

The project has been placed before the Governors of Sonora, Sinaloa and Tepic, and they have expressed their approval and signified their willingness to co-operate therein.

As soon as the chambers of commerce of the two cities of Nogales have arranged for co-operative work, the plan will be presented to the two bodies, and it is believed that they will take active steps to ascertain whether sufficient financial and official support can be obtained to make the proposition feasible.

Mr. A. C. Villasenor, among others, has become interested in the idea, and he is sufficiently impressed with it to be ready to furnish a site for the proposed building in which the exhibit would be housed.

Mr. Villasenor owns considerable land bordering the international boundary line on the Mexican side. He has suggested a site west of Nogales, Sonora, opposite the canyon which winds through Nogales, Arizona.

At that point there is a beautiful level tract of some 30 or 40 acres which Mr. Villasenor believes would be ideal for the purpose, and if the proposition should take definite shape he would be willing to donate a lease for a long term for the tract mentioned.

Among other advantages, it has a splendid spring of water adjacent that would furnish a source of abundant water supply.

The plan, as under consideration now, contemplates showing samples of the agricultural products of the entire West Coast section, samples of its mineral products, and a complete photographic representation of the beauties and resources thereof.

Mr. Turnbull, of Los Angeles, a cinema operator, is now engaged in taking moving pictures throughout the West Coast region, and he is incidentally laying the exposition project before the authorities of the different States in which he is working.

Those interested in the plan believe that financial assistance for carrying it out can be secured both in the Mexican States of the West Coast region, and also in Nogales, Arizona, and possibly from the State authorities and from California.

It is pointed out that such an exhibit would stimulate development of the West Coast region by giving Americans and other visitors to Nogales a knowledge of the wealth and resources of the West Coast region that could not otherwise be obtained except by tedious and expensive journeys into that region. It would stimulate trade in Mexican products.

Many of the influential and wealthy residents of the Mexican side have expressed interest in the plan, and it is probable that it will be laid before the chamber of commerce of Nogales, Arizona, and Nogales, Sonora, at the first joint meeting those bodies hold.—*Nogales* (*Arizona*) *Oasis.*

Mexico Viewed With Friendly Eyes

A Former United States Diplomatic Official Presents Various Aspects of the Life and History of the Republic

BY GEN. CHRISTOPHER C. ANDREWS,

(Formerly U. S. Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro and U. S. Minister at Stockholm.)

FOUR years ago the President of the United States made a friendly visit to the President of Mexico. Two years before that our Secretary of State, Mr. Root, made a friendly visit to the capital of Mexico. About two years previously our Government conveyed in one of its ships of war the remains of a Mexican Ambassador to his country and requested that our marines who acted as escort be allowed to accompany the remains to their last resting place. Such exceptional acts express better than words American good will.

Four of our largest States, in area—Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California—border on Mexico, with a frontier about two thousand miles in length. The Rio Grande River, which forms a great part of the boundary, is fordable most of the time, and affords peculiar means for the concealment of lawless incursions. There have been some pillaging excursions from our side into Mexico. For military protection of that border, our Government has incurred considerable expense. There are now five or more railroads running from the United States into Mexico, and in recent years several thousand Americans have gone there to engage in mining, business, agriculture, or professional callings, a number of whom, it is pitiful to believe, have lost both property and life from the lawlessness accompanying frequent political revolutions. Not only on their account, but for the sake of the Mexicans themselves, the people of the United States are anxious for a just administration of government in that country.

It is harder to govern a large country than a small one, and some allowance should be made our Mexican neighbors for any shortcomings in government on that account. A person leaving El Paso, Texas, by railroad for Mexico City, and finding that he must travel 1224 miles to get there, begins to realize the extent of the country. In area, Mexico is ten and a half times larger than the State of New York. It is larger than the German Empire, France, and Spain together.

It is an elevated plateau, divided by mountain ranges into vast plans and numerous valleys. In the 263 miles from Vera Cruz to Mexico City, the railroad climbs 8330 feet, Mexico City itself having an altitude of 7400 feet. While there are over 15,000 miles of railroad—just about the same number of miles that Texas has—and 25,000 miles of telegraph lines in the country, wagon roads are scarce and poor—some States not having any—and the means of communication difficult. The population is said to comprise 14,000,000 (though I think the figures are exaggerated), of which 2,000,000 are pure whites and the balance Indians and mixed bloods. Lack of education makes many of the people an easy prey to falsehood and prejudice. Let us be thankful that they are as good as they are.

Imperfect System of Surveys

An important drawback to the development of Mexico's agricultural resources has been the imperfect system of surveys of public lands. In the United States all public lands that were valuable for agriculture or timber were by the general Government carefully surveyed into sections only a mile square, and stakes with letters and figures carved thereon, showing the number of the section and township in which it was situated, set at each corner; also quarter-section stakes set so that a settler hunting for land could himself select a quarter section of 160 acres, the maximum quantity allowed a settler under our homestead and pre-emption laws, double that quantity, however, being allowed a settler in the Pacific States. Not only so, but the settler could by Government stakes pick a forty-acre tract.

Conveniently located in districts about a hundred miles square, is a Government land office, where, without charge, the settler can examine township maps, each descriptive of thirty-six sections of land, on a scale of two

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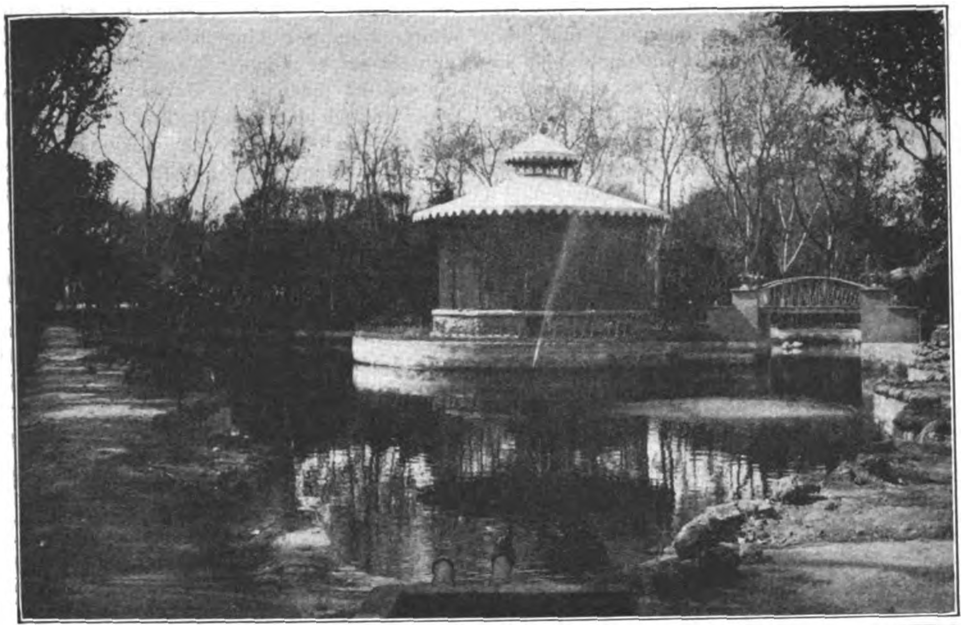


Lago Alameda. San Luis Potosi. Mexico

inches to the mile. Also there are on file brief field notes, made by the surveyor, showing the character of the land, and copies of which can be obtained. No such system of surveys of public land has obtained in Brazil, nor, so far as I know and believe, in any of the Spanish-American countries.

It is difficult to obtain clear title. In many instances an individual holds a million acres; and there are instances where an individual holds over five million acres. Imagine fifty families owning nine-tenths of the land in a State as large as Indiana and Ohio together, and the situation can be understood.

Unimproved land in these large estates does not bear its just burden of taxation; and it is easy for one to hold a large tract as a wilderness indefinitely. Often a part of such land is used for cattle ranges, but the system shows some of the obstacles to communication and development. Besides, the unequal taxation—upon a valuation *as declared by the owner*—pertaining to the holding of such large estates excites discontent. Many small holders have been dispossessed of land, and the dissatisfaction arising therefrom is a leading cause of the present troubles, demanding immediate treatment by wise statesmanship.

The Mexicans think that the best time for tourists to visit their country is in the rainy season, which is from the latter part of June till into September. The rest of the year is dry. "Northers" sometimes prevail for successive days when, as the dwellings are without means for heating, people really suffer discomfort. Frost and snow sometimes occur at Mexico City.

While undoubtedly rich in the precious metals, Mexico produces neither coal nor iron to much, if any, extent. Of agricultural crops, cotton, rice, sugar cane, corn, wheat, barley, and alfalfa are the leading. Generally one crop a year can be produced without irrigation; but with irrigation, two or three crops of various products can be raised in one year. At an elevation of about 4000 feet, coffee plantations are successful. Oranges, bananas, grapes, and other tropical fruits are grown.

Where capital, enterprise, and intelligence are applied, one will see handsome, up-to-date and profitable farms. Elsewhere he may see wide and arid prairies covered with scattered cactus plants, sometimes forty feet high, a foot or two in diameter, and without branches. Running streams are scarce, and there are cattle ranges where, from the scarcity of herbage, fifteen acres are said to be needed for one head of stock.

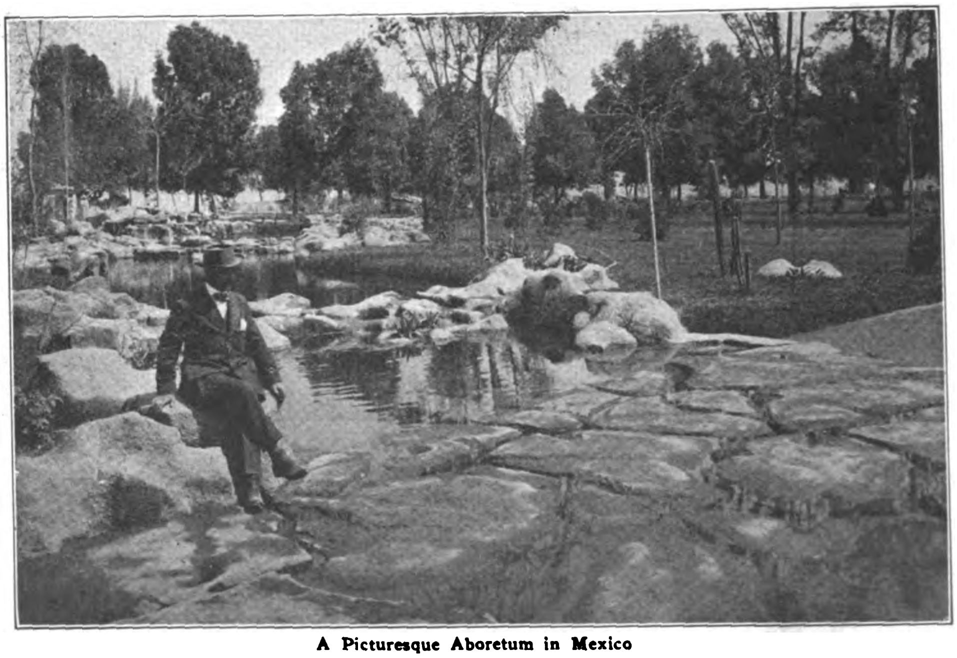
In the more southerly and lower situations mahogany and ebony trees are numerous (amid malaria, however, and tropical jungle), but generally trees grow only on mountainsides, where sometimes may be seen pine and other trees resembling American forests. Mexico has large tracts of yet undeveloped fertile soil; and with the gradual increase of the means of irrigation, acquisition of capital, and application of science and enterprise, should—with peace and security—have a great agricultural future.

It is a striking fact that, although Mexico is seventeen times larger than Cuba in area, and has, according to her census, a population seven times greater than Cuba's, her foreign commerce is only about seven million dollars more than that of Cuba. Her foreign commerce for the year 1911 amounted to $243,458,851, and that of Cuba $236,319,087.

Mexico's trade with the United States for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, was larger than in any previous year, her exports to the United States amounting to $77,500,000, and her imports from the United States amounting to $54,500,000. Among the principal articles of our imports from Mexico were: Copper, amounting to $17,000,000; sisal grass, $15,000,000; crude mineral oils, $7,000,000; cattle, $5,000,000, and coffee, $4,000,000. Our exports to Mexico, principally manufactures, included lumber amounting to $2,000,000; boots and shoes, $2,000,000; lard, $1,000,000; wheat, over half a million; and corn, a little less than half a million dollars.

It is also a striking fact that, although Canada's population is only about half that of Mexico, her foreign commerce is nearly four times as great. The foreign commerce of Canada for the fiscal year ending in 1912 was $874,637,794. As manual labor becomes more popular among the Mexicans, they will produce more and buy more.

The Ambassador who represents the United States Government in Mexico should be very influential and effective in maintaining good relations between the two countries. Assisted by three secretaries and a military attaché, he conducts on our part the business which the two Governments have with each other, and is expected to keep his Govrenment correctly informed in regard to conditions, political and otherwise, in Mexico, and the sentiments of its people towards the United States. To accomplish this effectually, he should have long experience, a thorough acquaintance with the country, and friendly social relations, not only with the higher officers of the Government, but with leading citizens. He must, therefore,



A Picturesque Aboretum in Mexico

live, not in a pretentious and flashy, but in a hospitable and proper, style that will command respect and good will.

Above all, the Ambassador himself should be a man whose wisdom, thorough honesty, sincerity, and human sympathy are apparent. It is the wise policy of European governments to maintain especially well their embassies to their nearest neighboring countries, and we should do the same in respect to Mexico. Every one remembers how immensely valuable were the services of Charles Francis Adams as our Minister to England during our Civil War, and the right man sent and continued as Ambassador to Mexico would be of great benefit to both countries.

Owing to our unfortunate practice of using such offices as rewards for party services, the United States has had six different Ambassadors in Mexico in the past twenty years. They were continued scarcely long enough to become acquainted with the country or become well known to its people.

If our Government can find a Benjamin Franklin, he is the kind of man who should be sent as Ambassador to Mexico, and he should be kept there as long as he is useful. A few years ago, one of our consuls in Mexico, in writing to our Government about the case of an American citizen imprisoned there without legal process, said that in his district the Mexicans did not respect Americans. If we could keep such an Ambassador in Mexico as I have mentioned, I believe this influence, after a while, would make the Mexican people like us. It would anyhow show them that we respected their country.

A number of years ago, when a member of the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Stockholm was telling me how popular Mr. Motley was as American Minister at Vienna, I said, "Mr. Motley was known as a distinguished historian." "Oh," he replied, "it was not on account of that—he gave splendid receptions." Mr. Motley happened to be wealthy, and probably spent three times his salary. It is not receptions alone, however, that can make a diplomatic representative popular; he must, as has been said, have good traits of his own, as Mr. Motley surely had. There were also accomplished members of his family to assist him in welcoming Austro-Hungarian society.

In the Matter of Salary

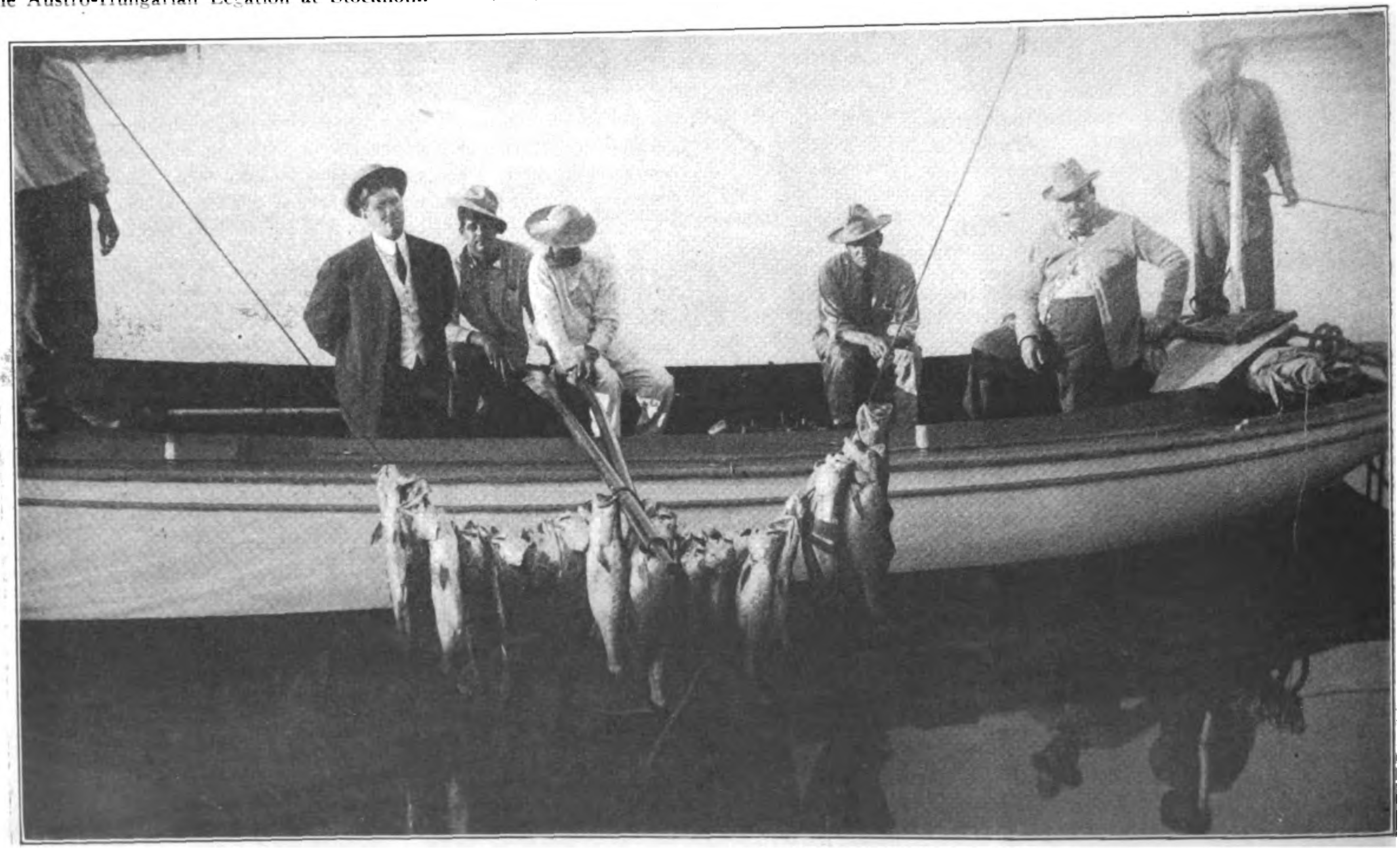
The United States pays its Ambassadors to Mexico a salary of $17,500 a year, out of which, among other things, he is expected to procure and furnish a house at an average expense of about $6,000 a year, pay the wages of eight or more first-class servants, entertain liberally with dinner parties and receptions, etc. Great Britain pays her Ambassador to France £11,500 ($55,660) per annum, provides him with a fine house well furnished, and, after he has been in the diplomatic service fifteen years and has served as Ambassador three years, he can retire with a pension or retired pay of £1,700 ($8,228) per annum; the retired pay being exactly on the same principle as we treat our United States Judges and our army and navy officers. I would submit that it would be a truly economical plan, and tend to save military and naval expenditures, if our people would urge their Senators and Representatives in Congress to maintain our embassy in Mexico as liberally as Great Britain maintains her embassy in France.

What I ventured to say in the closing part of my article "Our Commerce with Cuba, Porto Rico, and Mexico," in the July, 1879, number of the *Atlantic Monthly* is true to-day as well as then: "The United States do not want an inch more of Mexican territory. All that the United States ask of Mexico is that she shall align herself with other civilized nations. They ask that she shall suppress that marauding which, on a considerable part of their frontier, renders life, to use the words of the Secretary of State, 'well-nigh insupportable'; and they wish that, under government justly and humanely administered, she may enjoy the tranquillity indispensable to business enterprise and industry, and which will enable her to attain the social and material prosperity that will make her a good neighbor."

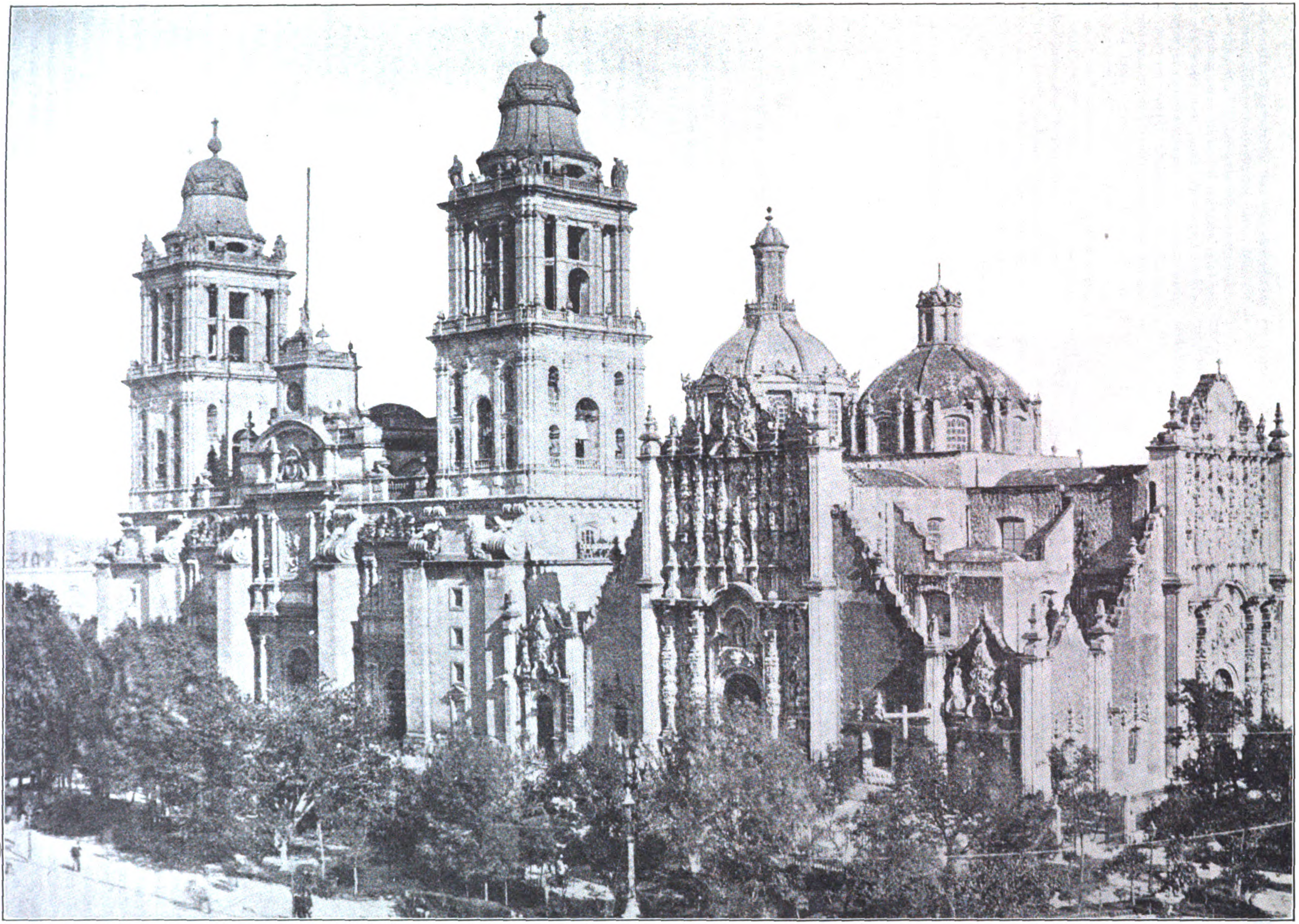
General Ignacio Enriquez, the newly appointed Governor of the State of Chihuahua, recently held an amicable conference with Governor Hobby, of Texas, at Juarez, in which many subjects were discussed for the betterment of relations between the two countries.

The Boy Scout movement is proving very popular in Mexico. Three battalions have been organized in Mexico City alone, while in most of the centers of population throughout the Republic there are also groups numbering in all several thousands of members. They have adopted the name of "Mexican Explorers," and are enthusiasts in all branches of the service, which includes cavalry, infantry, bridge-builders, etc.

A highway capable of accommodating automobiles as well as all other classes of vehicles is being constructed from the city of Pachuca, capital of the State of Hidalgo, to the Vega of Metztitlan, a rich agricultural region from which in the past it has been difficult to transport the large quantities of grain, etc., that are produced there.



Fisherman's Paradise on the West Coast



The Cathedral

Mexico City's Jitney Service

Many Hundreds of These Popular Vehicles—
Idiosyncrasies of Their Nomenclature

A Mexico City Jitney

MEXICO CITY, *September* 15.

ALTHOUGH the "jitney" business originated in the United States (in exactly what city there is some conflict of statement), those who have had personal experience and have watched its development are willing to concede that just as Abou-ben-Adhem is supposed to have led all his compeers, it is to this country, singularly enough and surprisingly enough, that one must come to see this modern solution of the transportation problem in its highest stage. Mexico City, if she does not actually lead all the cities on this continent in this respect, still is so close to the head of the procession as to proudly challenge all possible competitors.

Among the many novel features of the every day (and every night as well) life of this city, this is one of the most prominent that attracts the attention of the first-time visitor. And the former resident, who returns, like your correspondent, after an absence of a year or so, is filled with surprise at the throng of auto-busses of every conceivable shape, style and capacity which at top speed traverses all but one of the city's principal thoroughfares and renders access to all the suburban villages and "colonies" ready as well as economical. Many of these vehicles have only the running gear and framework of their original mechanism, and have been rebuilt in order to enlarge their passenger-carrying capacity to the utmost. The more pretentious have canopy tops and are arranged with parallel seats like the much-sneered-at but nevertheless popular and valuable "rubber-neck wagons" of our own large cities. These will accommodate from 25 to 30 passengers with seats, and half as many more on occasion clinging to the running boards. Others have seats lengthwise and can carry half or two-thirds as many as their larger competitors. Still others are just plain, ordinary autos, those of the Detroit vintage being the favorite, and accommodate all that can find seat, foot or toe hold. During the rush hours every vehicle is crowded to the limit, and the homeward-bound travelers, of every age, of every walk and condition in life, cluster all over them, inside and outside, like a swarm of bees. Indeed, it is a wonder how so many people can attach themselves to so small a vehicle.

There are many hundreds of these jitneys, or "camiones" as they are called here, and they pass in almost endless procession to and fro along their selected routes at a rate of speed that is calculated to turn one's hair gray unless he be hardened to such deadly risks. The electric car lines of this city have always been regarded by travelers as offering a most excellent and rapid service, but they are not to be compared with the jitneys. These transport passengers along the same thoroughfares and to the same suburbs as do the car lines, but make the journey in rather less than half the time consumed by the former. Notwithstanding this advantage, with the further one of there being a practically continuous stream of the jitneys against the fifteen or twenty minutes headway of the electric cars, the fares as regulated by the government are exactly the same. The average charge for the city and nearby suburbs is 10 centavos (about 6 cents American gold), though to some of the more remote outlying localities it is higher—15 centavos being the limit.

Considering the distance traversed, the time consumed and the frequency of operation, the rates charged make this about the most comfortable and low-priced traffic of its kind to be found anywhere.

It was the necessities of the situation, so far as regards city and interurban transportation, that led to the introduction of the jitney into this city, and the success of the novelty from its very inception led to its development upon a very large scale, there being now not less than 2500 of these popular vehicles in constant operation day and night. The street cars, during the two years following the occupation of the city by the present government in 1915, were so overcrowded that they were as dangerous as they were uncomfortable. Notwithstanding the fact that the principal lines ran their cars in couples—first and second class, the latter charging just half the fare of the first, though with practically the same accommodation, since the seats in the one were little if any softer than those of the other—the vehicles for the greater portion of the day were jammed to repletion. During the "rush hours" of morning, noon and night, passengers hung on to the rear of the platform, clung to the car couplings, crowded the steps, jammed the platforms and passage ways, perched upon the tension rods at the sides and clung to the open windows, even climbed on the roofs of the cars. It was no uncommon sight to see passengers algihting by way of a window instead of seeking to make their way through the crowded interior to the platforms. The crowded cars were the favorite resort for pickpockets as well as for the vermin which are said to be the sole conductors of the virus of typhus fever, and many a fatal case of that disease, as well as many a lost pocketbook or watch, was traced to a journey in an overcrowded street car.

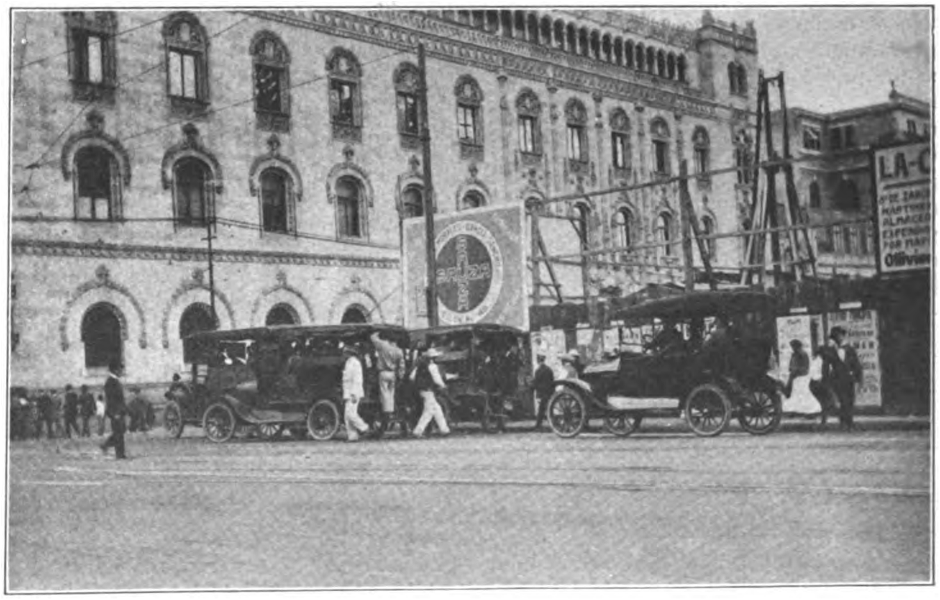
Naturally under these conditions accidents were not infrequent, hangers-on were often swept from their perches by passing vehicles, and numerous deaths were credited to this account. The public generally called for relief, but none was afforded until some enterprising person who had seen or heard of the wonderful rise and success of the jitney service in Texas cities along the border introduced the idea here and at once found a swarm of imitators. This is now the popular method of locomotion, and seldom are the contemned electric cars crowded to an extent that one cannot at most time find a seat. To be sure the pickpockets still ply their trade, two of them working in concert having helped themselves the other day to your correspondent's bocketbook—happily empty and prepared especially for the benefit of the light-fingered gentry.

Up to the time of the introduction of the jitney, automobiles were a decided luxury only to be enjoyed by those having money, and the fortunate auto riders, as they rolled proudly down the Paseo de la Reforma, were the envied of all, and especially of their less fortunate countrymen and women. But all this is changed. Now, any one having 10 or 15 centavos can enjoy a trip from the commencement of the avenue at the famous "Iron Horse," all the way down to Chapultepec—said to be one of the most beautiful as it is one of the most famous pleasure thoroughfares in all the world, and can ride neck and neck with the proudest official or merchant in his expensive French or American machine. No more must the lowly peon or mechanic and his wife watch from the sidewalk the supercilious auto rider, leaning back against the soft cushions. The seats of the jitney may not be so soft and luxurious, but the vehicle runs side by side with those of the aristocracy, and "gets there just the same," to the manifest huge content of the occupants, who for a few centavos now find themselves enjoying a luxury once supposed to belong peculiarly and solely to the wealthy.

When first introduced, the operators of these novel conveyances ran them about as they pleased, passing through any street that took their fancy, and being a law entirely unto themselves. But their number increased so rapidly that the District Government soon found itself obliged to take cognizance of their activities and adopt regulations for their control. But in so doing the officials did not lose sight of the rights and conveniences of the traveling public. They did not believe, as has been the case in many places that might be mentioned, that the street car companies were entitled to a monopoly of the avenues over which they had been given franchises of great value and that any intrusion upon that monopoly should be prevented. Regular routes of travel were laid out, obliging the jitney operators to adhere rigidly to certain thoroughfares, and under no circumstances to trespass upon others. All jitneys running, say, to San Rafael must pass down a certain street and return by another, all those to Tacubaya by another street, and so on. Upon certain of the wider thoroughfares they may pass in one direction upon one side and in the other upon the opposite, but as a rule they are obliged to keep to one street in the heart of the city while going in one direction and to another when reversing their journey, just as are the street cars in the center of the town. On the principal street affected by promenaders and pleasure traffic (the Avenida Francisco I. Madero, once the Avenida San Francisco), no jitneys are allowed under any circumstances, and there are no street cars on that avenue.

Many of the jitney owners seek to attract attention by giving their machines more or less fancy names, sometimes indicative of their political or other sentiments. Thus, here comes one denominated the "General Joffre," and it is a staunch and well-patronized vehicle, pushing its way valiantly to the fore despite all obstacles. Here is another called the "Hindenburg," and singularly enough it broke down on the Avenue Juarez on the very same day that the Hindenburg line was broken by the Allies in Europe. There was one called the "Kaiser," so I was told, but it has evidently gone out of commission or perhaps has changed its name, for though the writer watched in vain for several hours on the principal thoroughfare, he did not catch a glimpse thereof. Perhaps this newly painted one proudly bearing the name "America" is the "Kaiser" rechristened! Here comes "El Vampire," whose name is self-explanatory, followed by "Fifi," perhaps the driver's sweetheart or kidlet. There too is the "Maclovio Herrera," after the famous Constitutionalist General who lost his life while doing such good service for his country. "Rosa Blanca" (the White Rose), "La Marina" (the Sailor), "Hormiga" (the Ant, but why?—since it is anything but ant-like in its movements), "Mayatito" (the Little Maya), "Rio Bravo" (the Rio Grande—which is one of the fastest of the swarm), "Nandito," "Anahuac," "Marianella," "Mitla," "Malintzi," "Monterrey," "Pretty Baby" (which belies its name), "El Submarino" (which also does not live up to its cognomen). Here comes "El 8" (but it is not an "eight" and carries more than eight passengers, hence the appropriateness of the name is not apparent). "Mancito" (the Gentle One) comes roaring and puffing down the street, and of all things in the world, here comes the "Charlie Chaplin"! My, but wouldn't Charlie be proud to see the jitney to which his name is attached. The "Chaplin" is closely followed by the "Max Linder," favorite film comedian with movie "fans" in this country, and then comes "El Pacholin" (Happy Hooligan). The "Guillermina" limps and halts, clashes and clamors on its last "wheels" in full imitation of its namesike—Guillermo of Germany. "Dante" comes rushing recklessly along, threatening unless care is used to land its passengers where the one from whom it inherited the name passed so much time! Then comes a machine with the comforting name of "La Paz" (the Peace), followed by "El Transiberiano" and "Consentido" (the Spoiled Child, or the Cuckold, just as you prefer). "España" plainly enough indicates the nativity of its owner, and it is followed by "Don Tancredo," "Lupe" (favorite feminine diminutive), "El Centenario" (the Centennial), "Montserrat," and (be careful now) "El Chimalpopoca" and "El Cintapalapa!" "La Favorita" (the Favorite) proves true to its name and is always crowded, as is "El Recreo" (the Recreation), "El Arcon," "Laredo," "Zacatecas," "El Triunfo" (the Triumph), and so on down a long list of more or less appropriate names, all of which serve to lend interest to the observer and are a source of amusement as well as conjecture.

But if you want a good jitney service, by all means come to Mexico!



Jitneys in Front of the Mexico City Postoffice

Ford to Establish a Tractor Factory in Mexico

Profits Will Remain in That Country—Mexicans Will be Taught

ANNOUNCEMENT is made in the Mexican press that Henry Ford, the leading tractor and automobile manufacturer of the United States, has submitted a plan to President Carranza, of Mexico, for the establishment in that country of an extensive and complete plant for the manufacture of tractors for agricultural purposes. The plan is to educate Mexican mechanics in the Ford plants in this country and then return them to their own land to operate the factory there. The principal object of the Mexican factory will be the manufacture of tractors, which will be sold to farmers practically at cost and also on terms which will allow them to be paid for from the increased crops made possible by the use of the modern machinery.

At present those wishing to buy tractors are met by the necessity of paying heavy freight, import and other charges, commissions, etc. All this will be obviated by the manufactory in Mexico and the tractors and other machinery will be sold for much less than is now possible.

Mr. Ford declares that his sole purpose is to benefit Mexico and that every cent of profit that may be made in this enterprise will remain in that country. Stringent provisions will be made in this direction in the contracts that will be drawn up, while after his death his descendants will be required to follow the same policy.

It is the intention of Mr. Ford to invest several millions in this enterprise—whatever sum may be necessary to put it upon a successful footing from its inception. No idea has been given as to the probable location of the mnaufactory, but it will of course be at some point where rail transportation is convenient, as well as where oil, coal, iron and other essentials may be readily procured. Such places are not difficult to find.

The Mexicans' Forefathers

Their Mental Status and the Reasons for Their Present Condition—Hope for the Future

BY ROBERT BRUCE BRINSMADE

THE majority of men do not think, because they are compelled to spend all their energy in the struggle for life, and they have no time left for thinking. The majority accept everything that exists as inevitable, natural and current. This is what makes so hard the task of the social reformer, and converts his way into a Way of the Cross. This is what brings the jeers of the powerful and the curses of the rabble on those who dare to be the first to raise their voice in the defense of a truth.—HENRY GEORGE.

The basis of national progress is the education of the young, since in no other way can we transmit to future generations the knowledge inherited and acquired by the present one. In order to investigate the causes of the backwardness of education in Mexico, we must study the history of the European and Indian races which were the ancestors of the Mexicans, and investigate their intellectual peculiarities.

* * *

Archaeology has demonstrated that man began his own history on the plans of animals, and has made his way from savagery to civilization by means of the slow accumulation of experimental knowledge. Morgan[*] estimates that the period of five thousand years comprised in written history is less than one-fifth per cent of the period during which man, as such, has dwelled on the earth. Every existing nation is the outcome of savage ancestors, and the periods of civilization through which every nation has passed in order to reach its present state may be classed as follows:

One of the Old Apache Chiefs

Order.	State.	Grade.	Knowledge acquired.	Example
1	Savage.	Low.	Vegetable food, articulate language.	Man at the pleocene ag
2	Savage.	Medium.	Fish food, use of fire.	Polynesians.
3	Savage.	High.	Animal food, use of bows and arrows.	Athabascans.
4	Barbarians.	Low.	Agriculture, huts, pottery.	Iroquois.
5	Barbarians.	Medium.	Irrigation, domestic animals	Aztecs, Incas.
6	Barbarians.	High	Use of metals, temples.	Homeric G'ks.
7	Civilized.	Low.	Phonetic alphabet, land owners.	Spaniards in 1521
8	Civilized.	Medium.	Natural sciences, application of steam.	Contemporary Frenchmen.

The Spanish chroniclers judged the Aztecs as "civilized" due to the ignorance of the former in archaeological matters. Their observations were so erroneous that they described the indeterminate Aztec confederation of the democratic tribes as an "empire," the warrior chief, Montezuma, as a "monarch," and his associates, the chiefs of the tribes, as "feudal lords." This error of the Spaniards has been adopted by Prescott in his interesting histories.[**] Morgan says: "Spanish chroniclers deserve credit in what relates to the acts of the Spaniards, or to the weapons, tools, industries, food, etc., of the Indians; but in what relates to the Indian government, social relations and political economy these chronicles are absolutely worthless."

At the time of the Conquest the Indians did not know the uses of iron; but they worked softer metals, such as copper; they traded by means of exchange of goods, for money was unknown among them; they used irrigation for cultivation of their lands; wove coarse materials with cotton and feathers; built mud and stone houses and made excellent pottery. They owned the lands in common; they dwelled in the houses by family groups; they prepared only one meal per day, which was served first to the men; they lacked chairs and tables. The Indians practiced drawing, and had a marvelous knowledge of astronomy.

Consequently, the Spaniards may refute the charge generally made against them, that they destroyed Aztec civilization, since the latter did not exist. Their sins in Mexico have been much more sins of omission than of commission. Considering the Indian as a domestical animal, they taught him the vices and not the virtues of civilization; their selfish colonial government is still reflected in the suffering of the masses in Mexico. The failure of the Spaniards lies in not shouldering the task of the "white man," that of civilizing the Aztecs, and it can be appreciated by a glance at history.

* * *

In the times of Christ, the Iberian Peninsula was one of the civilized countries forming part of the Roman Empire, with a population of Iberians, Celts and Italians. During the decadence of Rome, after the fourteenth century, the peninsula was invaded by different barbarous tribes of Teutons, especially Vandals and Visigoths. The latter settled in the northern part of Spain, founding there a kingdom in the year 415, and spread over the whole peninsula during the following three centuries, although merely in the character of a reigning caste, since the conquered Latins formed the bulk of the nation.[†]

In the year 711 the Visigoth kingdom was overturned by the Mohammedan invader coming from Africa, who established a Moorish empire destined to subsist for about 800 years. The Visigoth chieftains were not exterminated, but they took refuge in the provinces of Asturias, Biscayan Galicia, Navarre and Aragon. There they lived isolated, secure in the mountains, but deprived of all the advantages of civilization; and the poor and ignorant Christians, guided by their fanatical priests, undertook an incessant and inhuman war against the Moors. The conflict did not end until the year 1492, when Granada, the last Moorish bulwark in Spain, was taken by King Ferdinand V.

* * *

When Mexico was conquered in 1521, Charles V ruled over Spain, as successor to Ferdinand V, and, due to the possessions of the empire in America, a wonderful century of material grandeur began for Spain. But it already nourished at its breast a monster destined to bring about its ruin—the Inquisition. This famous body was instituted in permanent form by Pope Innocent III in the year 1215. At first the Church employed it with the help of the government, as an instrument against heresy.

Its appalling possibilities as a political lever were not understood until it became a tool in the hands of the Spanish Crown in 1478. Under the reigns of Ferdinand V and Charles V, the Inquisition became the principal means of support of their autocratic power throughout their vast empire, which comprised almost all the world. It helped to unify the primitive seven Christian kingdoms of Spain and convert them into a single fanatical State; it enriched the royal treasury with the properties of those it declared heretics, and smothered political and religious dissensions. For the fulfilment of its decrees recourse was had to the most outrageous and sanguinary methods, and secret torments ended only in public execution. It is estimated that in Spain alone, in the period from the year 1481 till its abolition in 1808, by Napoleon, the Inquisition[*] had ordered the burning alive of 31,912 individuals, and had inflicted odious punishments on 291,456. Its short domination in the Low Countries during the reign of Charles V cost 100,000 lives of "heretics," who perished under the ax, on the gallows or by fire.[††]

The reason which led the Spaniards to support through three centuries such a diabolical institution, which no other Catholic country would have maintained even for ten years, was that, during a religious war which lasted over eight centuries, the people had been taught by their priests that heretics were outside the pale of humankind. Bound by the friars in the double chains of superstition and ignorance, the Spaniards became the abject slaves of the Church and the King, ready to commit any crime, however frightful.

In the New World also, with savage ferocity, they hounded the unbelievers, and the Antilles were depopulated in the period of one century. The Mexican Indians would have disappeared, too, had it not been for the partisans of the virtuous Father Bartolome Las Casas, who secured from the Spanish Crown the Law of Commons.

The Inquisition, expelling with refined cruelty the Jews and the Moors from Spain at the beginning of the sixteenth century, occasioned the ruin of Spanish industries. Those inoffensive people formed the industrial middle class which, through its artisans and gardeners, had caused industry and agriculture to prosper. Their absence left a vacuum between the nobility and the clergy in the upper class and the laborers below. The privileged classes were too proud to work, and the masses too incapable of working productively without efficient direction. Industry languished, factories were closed, lands were abandoned. In the meantime, church buildings and priests multiplied, and thousands of laborers, driven to want, turned into bandits or beggars.

* * *

Whether one believes that the great men are the creators or the creatures of the progressive movements of humanity, it is a fact that they are essential concomitants of such progress, which would not be possible without them. Consequently, the Inquisition, by its careful elimination, during nine generations, of the independent thinkers in the Spanish Dominions at a rate of about 1000 a year, did exactly the reverse to what the gardener does when weeding, since that institution made away with the fine plants, leaving the weeds.

The destruction of intelligent individuals carried out by the Inquisition has been denied by some Spaniards, who point out the numerous native poets, artists, musicians, painters, novelists; but this defense fails, because not all superior people were eliminated by the Inquisitors, but only a certain class of them. The principal victims were the intellectuals in the scientific realm, who asked: "Why?" "Whereof?" as well as all those parties of independent mind or nonconformists who refused to approve any political or religious acts unless they were in accordance with morals. By the destruction of scientists, the Inquisition made away with that part of humanity which makes discoveries and inventions; by suppressing the nonconformists, it put an end to that type of men who maintain liberty of conscience and who help democratic governments to attain success.

* * *

Spain has not yet recovered from the harm caused by the expulsion of the middle class and the extermination of the scientists and nonconformists. Its masses carry the weight of the upper clergy and nobility; and in the meantime factories, mines, lands are in the hands of foreigners, who themselves manage these properties. The educated class in Spain is still too proud to work, and, consequently, must live by foul or fair means; legacies or cheating. Many of these individuals, lacking legacies, rush into public office, and the result is prevalent corruption and inefficiency therein. It is only since Spain had the fortune to lose its last colonies, in 1899, that it is beginning to reform; but it must go through a long and arduous apprenticeship in order to reach the same degree of culture prevailing in France or Northern Italy.

The Old Girl is 106

The law of heredity explains the present condition of Spain. Galton[‡] demonstrated, a half century ago, that intellectual faculties are transmitted in the human family in the same manner in which certain peculiarities are inherited in the animal species, and that it is just as possible by judicious marriages to produce a race of men highly endowed as it is feasible to create a notable race of horses or dogs. Galton, after a careful study of many eminent Englishmen, arrived at the conclusion that at least 50 per cent of the mental faculties of these men were atavic. Lately, Woods[‡‡] has investigated the genealogy of 832 members of royal families in Europe, and he found that about 90 per cent of their intellectual qualities and about 50 per cent of their moral qualities were derived from their forefathers.

* * *

During the Colonial epoch, Mexico suffered, with other Spanish colonies, the cruelties of the Inquisition, established in the City of Mexico shortly after the Conquest. The contempt of the feudal warriors for manual labor was also prevalent in the educated classes of the colony, although an exception was made with respect to mines, which were exploited by Spanish Creoles more as a military adventure than on a commercial basis. Although Mexico secured its independence in the year 1821, it was not until 1857 that it was freed from the Clericals' yoke by the Laws of Reform,[‡‡‡] and this freedom lasted only a few years, for freedom of thought was quickly repressed shortly after the accession of Diaz to power, in the year 1876.

* * *

The history which I have cited abounds in hopes for the mental future of the native races. The Indians of the Communal lands have not degenerated from a previous civilized state; they are still in the same condition of barbarism and lack of culture (see table) merely because they have never been helped by the white man to rise out of that condition. It is true that many of the peones on the farms and in the cities are degraded by slavery and alcoholism, but the notable aptitudes they have shown for industry and mechanical work indicate that the natural artistic gift of the Indian can be successfully applied to the modern system of production.

The fact that a statesman like Benito Juarez came from a family of pure Indians is a demonstration that the present intellectual state of the Indian is not the result of an organic inferiority, but of lack of education and culture.

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[*] "Ancient Sociology," by Daniel Morgan.

[**] "Ferdinand and Isabella," 1837; "Conquest of Mexico," 1843; "Conquest of Peru," 1847, by W. H. Prescott.

[†] "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," by Gibbon.

[††] "Inquisition," in Vol. IV of Johnson's "Cyclopedia," U. S. A.

[‡] "Hereditary Genius," by F. Galton, and "Descent of Man," by Darwin, U. S. A.

[‡‡] "Mental and Moral Heredity in Royalty," by F. A. Woods, in *Popular Science Monthly*, New York, August, 1912.

[‡‡‡] "Codigo de la Reforma," by Blas J. Alatorre, Mexico, D. F.

WITH THE MEXICAN POETS

DE BLANCO

Manuel Gutierrez Najera Mexico)

¿Qué cosa más blanca que cándido lirio?
¿Qué cosa más pura que místico cirio?
¿Que cosa más casta que tierno azahar?
¿Que cosa más virgen que leve neblina?
¿Que cosa más santa que el ara divina de gótico altar?

De blancas palomas el aire se puebla;
con túnica blanca, tejida de niebla,
se envuelve a lo lejos feudal torreón;
erguida en el huerto la trémula acacia
al soplo del viento sacude con gracia su níveo pompón.

¿No ves en el monte la nieve que albea?
La torre muy blanca domina la aldea,
las tiernas ovejas triscando se van,
de cisnes intactos el lago se llena;
columpia su copa la enhiesta azucena
y su ánfora inmensa levanta el volcán.

Entremos al templo: la hostia fulgura;
de nieve parecen las canas del cura,
vestido con alba de lino sutil;
cien niñas hermosas ocupan los bancos,
y todas vestidas con túnicas blancas
en ramos ofrecen las flores de Abril.

Y subamos al coro: la virgen propicia
escuha los rezos de casta novicia
y el cristo de mármol expira en la cruz;
sin mancha se yerguen las velas de cera;
de encaje es la tenue cortina ligera
que ya transparenta del alba la luz.
Bajemos al campo: tumulto de plumas
parece el arroyo de blancas espumas
que quieren, cantando, correr y saltar;
su airosa mantilla de fresca neblina
terció la montaña, la vela latina
de barca ligera se pierde en el mar.

Ya salta del lecho la joven hermosa
y el agua refresca sus hombros de diosa,
sus brazos ebúrneos, su cuello gentil;
cantando y risueña se ciñe la enagua,
y trémulas brillan las gotas del agua
en su árabe peine de blanco marfil.

¡Oh mármol! ¡Oh nieve! ¡Oh inmensa blancura
que esparces doquiera tu casta hermosura!
¡Oh tímida virgen! ¡Oh casta vestal!
Tú estás en la estatua de eterna belleza;
de tu hábito blando nació la pureza,
¡al ángel das alas, sudario al mortal!

Tú cubres al niño que llega a la vida,
coronas las sienes de fiel prometida,
al paje revistes de rico tisu.
¡Que blancas son, reinas, los mantos de armiño!
¡Qué blanca es ¡oh madres! la cuna del niño!
¡Que blanca, mi amada, qué blanca eres tú!

En sueños ufanos de amores contemplo
alzarse muy blancas las torres de un templo
y oculto entre lirios abrirse un hogar;
y el velo de novia prenderse a tu frente,
cual nube de gasa que cae lentamente
y viene en tus hombros su encaje a posar

WHITE

Manuel Gutierrez Najera (Mexico).

What thing than the lily unstanied is more white?
More pure than the mystic wax taper so bright?
More chaste than the orange-flower, tender and fair?
Than the light mist more virginal—holier too
Than the stone where the eucharist stands, ever new,
In the Lord's House of Prayer?

By the flight of white doves all the air now is cloven;
A white robe, from strands of the morning mist woven,
Enwraps in the distance the feudal round tower.
The trembling acacia, most graceful of trees,
Stands up in the orchard and waves in the breeze
Her soft, snowy flower.

See you not on the mountain the white of the snow?
The white tower stands high o'er the village below;
The gentle sheep gambol and play, passing by.
Swans pure and unspotted now cover the lake;
The straight lily sways as the breezes awake;
The volcano's huge vase is uplifted on high.

Let us enter the church: shines the eucharist there;
And of snow seems to be the old pastor's white hair;
In an alb of fine linen his frail form is clad.
A hundred fair maidens there sit robed in white;
They offer bouquets of spring flowers, fresh and bright,
The blossoms of April, pure, fragrant and glad.

Let us go to the choir; to the novice's prayer
Propitiously listens the Virgin so fair;
The white marble Christ on the crucific dies;
And there without stain the wax tapers rise white;
And of lace is the curtain so thin and so light,
Which the day-dawn already shines through from the
skies.

Now let us go down to the field. Foaming white,
The stream seems a tumult of feathers in flight,
As its waters run, foaming and singing in glee.
In its airy mantilla of mist cool and pale
The mountain is wrapped; the swift bark's lateen sail,
Glides out and is lost to our sight on the sea.

The lovely young woman now springs from her bed,
On her goddess-like shoulders fresh water to shed,
On her fair, polished arms and her beautiful neck.
Now, singing and smiling, she girds on her gown;
Bright, tremulous drops, from her hair shaken down,
Her comb of Arabian ivory deck.

O marble! O snows! O vast, wonderful whiteness!
Your chaste beauty everywhere sheds its pure brightness,
O shy, timid vestal, to chastity vowed!
In the statue of beauty eternal are you;
From your soft robe is purity born, ever new;
You give angels wings, and give mortals a shroud.

You cover the child to whom life is yet new,
Crown the brows of the maiden whose promise is true,
Clothe the page in rich raiment that shines like a star.
How white are your mantles of ermine, O queens!
The cradle how white, where the fond mother leans!
How white, my beloved, how spotless you are!

In proud dreams of love, I behold with delight
The towers of a church rising white in my sight,
And a home, hid in lilies, that opens to me;
And a bridal veil hung on your forehead so fair,
Like a filmy cloud, floating down slow through the air,
Till it rests on your shoulders, a marvel to see!

Version by Alice Stone Blackwell

LA PLEGARIA DE LA ROGA ESTERIL

Por Enrique Gouzalez Maitinez

Señor, yo soy apenas una roca desnuda
que azota el viento y quema el sol;
la nube, cuando pasa, de lejos me saluda
y tiende el ala a otra region.

Soy en la cumbre signo de un esperar eterno,
vuelvo los ojos al zafir
y entre lluvias de agosto y ráfagas de invierno
no hay primavera para mí.

Ignoro los follajes; yo nunca de la fuente
tuve la límpida canción,
ni musgos fraternales que brindar a la frente
del fatigado viajador.

Yo soy como un espectro que se alzara insepulto,
angel proscrito de un edén;
en el fondo del alma llevo un afán aculto,
en las entrañas, vieja sed.

Tengo mi planta inmóvil hundida en la montaña
y una esperanza en el azur,
y me ignoran los hombres, y nadie me acompaña
en estas cárceles de luz.

Señor, ya que no tengo ni musgo florecido
ni un arroyuelo bullidor,
haz que en mis agbras forjen las águilas su nido
y hagan su tálamo de amor.

Mas si ha de ser forzoso que me aparte del mundo
y del concierto universal,
hazme símbolo eterno, inmutable y profundo
de la más alta soledad.

THE PRAYER OF THE BARREN ROCK

By Enrique Gonzalez Martinez

Lord, I am nothing, but barren rock,
Lashed by the wind, scorched by the sun's fierce might.
The passing cloud salutes me from afar,
Then elsewhere bends its flight.

I am a sign of everlasting hope,
Here on the height; the azure depths I see,
But amid August rains and winter blasts
There is no spring for me.

I have no greenery of waving leaves,
No fountain's limpid song and silvery stir,
No kindly mosses to invite the brow
Of the tired wayfarer.

Like an unburied spectre I rise up,
Or angel from an Eden forced to part;
A hidden yearning in my soul I bear,
An old thirst in my heart.

My foot is buried, moveless, in the mount;
My hope is fixed on heaven's azure height.
Men know not, and no one comes with me
Into this prison bright.

Lord, since I have no softly-flowering moss
Nor singing stream down-leaping from above,
Within my clefts let eagles build thier nest,
And make their home of love.

If I must stand apart from all the world
And its vast concert with earth's joy imbued,
Make me the symbol, endless, changless, deep,
Of loftiest solitude!

LA TUMBA DE JUAREZ

Ignacio Mariscal

En bronce ó duro mármol esculpido
No admires, no, su refulgente nombre,
Ni con su pompa funeral te asombre
La rica tumba en que le ves dormido.
Sepulcro más esplendido crigido
Á Juárez tiene, de inmortal renombre,
En el santuario de su pecho el hombre
Que le ama con un pueblo agradecido.

¿Buscas el epitafio? En esas leyes
Contémplalo en que altivro el mexicano
Su gloria encuentra y su robusta egida.
Por monumento igual, decidme, ¡oh reyes!
¿La púrpura y el cetro soberano
No dierais. . . . y también la inútil vida?

THE TOMB OF JUAREZ

By Ignacio Mariscal

Do not admire his great name, carved with art
In bronze or marble; wonder not, to see
The sepulchre's dark pomp and majesty
In which he slumbers, smitten by death's dart.
He has a nobler tomb within the heart
Of every man who loves him tenderly,
And in his grateful nation's memory;
'Tis built of fame that never shall depart.

His epitaph? The statues of our land,
In which the Mexicans with pride behold
Their glory, their defence from wrong and strife.
Monarchs, to earn a monument as grand,
Would you not give your purple and your gold,
Your sovereigns sciptre, yea, your worthless life?

LUCES DEL PRISMA

Agustín F. Cuenca

Sepulta en horizontes de escarlata
Su carro de oro el fulgurante día,
Y en el tocado de la noche umbría
Prendes, ¡oh Venus! tu floron de plata.
¡Rica joya del ciel! en ti retrata,
Ya su amarga aflicción, ya su alegría,
Quien duelos llora de la suerte impía,
Quien dichas debe á la fortuna ingrata.

Te ve radiante la inocencia pura,
Melancólica y triste el desconsuelo,
Gloriosamente belle la hermosura,
Voluptuosa el amor, fúnebre el duelo;
Que, doliente ó feliz, cada criatura
Tiene un cristal para mirar el cielo.

PRISMATIC LIGHTS

By Augustin F. Cuenca.

Below the west, that glows all ruddily.
Day's car of blazing gold hath sunk from sight.
Soon, Venus, thy rosette of silver bright
Upon Night's dusky mantle clasped will be.
Rich jewel of the skies! Alike in thee
The man who mourn's o'er unjust Fortune's slight,
And he on whom her choicest favors light,
Their sorrow and their joy reflected see.

Pure innocence beholds thee radiant, clear;
Beauty perceives thee gloriously fair;
Love sees thee tender: and the heart which sighs
Beholds thee mournful. Every creature here
Possesses, in delight or in despair,
A crystal glass through which to read the skies.

A SONG OF HANDS

By Jesus E. Valenzuela (Mexico), born 1856, died 1911.

Hands—like soft blossoming buds—
Of children that search for the breast,
In the calm sea of love's gaze
Cradled and sweetly caressed!
Small hands of Jesus the Christ,
In glory ineffably bright;
Hands like soft blossoming buds,
Hands bathed in milk and in light.

Fairy hands, nimble and fair,
O'er the piano that stray
Like a vague dream of life, or the void—
A dream from some realm far away!
The winged expression are ye
Of a sigh, or some cry on the air,
Floating in infinite space,
Fairy hands, nimble and fair.

Hands of an ivory white,
In the shade of the mantle obscure
Brightening prayer with their gleams
Gentle and starlike and pure!
Through their whiteness have passed all the woes
That ever humanity knew,
With the rosary's beads, one by one—
O hands of the ivory's hue!

Hands full of charity's grace,
Which to the hungry by night
Carry forth comfort and food,
Bread of hope's joy, of truth's light!
Noble, mysterious hands,
Of kindness unending, sincere!
Brothers are we, one and all,
Hands full of charity dear!

O pale, perished hands of the dead
For love or as martyrs who died!
Leaves of one lily are ye,
Hands that were clasped or spread wide;
Hands full of questions, desires,
Aspirations and yearnings unsaid—
Hands to the heavens outstretched,

O pale, perished hands of the dead!
Hands with the sword in their grasp,
That by warfare a sceptre have won,
And fill the whole world with the flood
Of rivers of blood that o'errun!
Hands of the common folk, armed
When quarrels or battles have birth—
Hands with the sword in their grasp,
Red hands of the great of the earth!..

Hands that are bleeding and hard,
That plough up the stern, arid soil,
And scarce feel the flight of the hours,
So heavy and cruel the toil;
Hands in the workshop that sweat,
That set up the type in all lands,
Hands that meet death in the mines—
Hard, rough and blood-spotted hands!

Hands that are wonted to toil,
Strong hands of the brave and the free!
When on the heights, in the depths,
Vibrates o'er land and o'er sea,
Stirring the world from its roots,
The anger of justice on fire—
Hands that are wonted to toil,
You shall that day hold the lyre!

Version by Alice Stone Blackwell

RHYME

By S. José M. Pino

What matter that thy madest lips, my dearest one,
From which a maiden's prayer alone flows free,
Say, in their innocent and timid coyness,
Thou hast no love for me?

If thy sweet eyes, so beautiful, so lustrous,
In the soul's language mystical and soft,
Unto my soul of love and hope have spoken—
Yes, many a time and oft!

BALADA DE LAS MANOS

Por Jesus E. Valenzuela (México)

Manos—capullos en flor—
De niños buscando el seno
En el piélago sereno
De una mirada de amor.
En inefable fulgor
Manecitas de Jesús
Bañadas en leche y luz...
Manos—capullos en flor.—

Manos ágiles de hada
Que pasan por el piano
Como un ensueño lejano
De la vida o de la nada;
Manos, expresión halada
De un suspiro o de algun grito
Que flotaba en lo infinito...
Manos ágiles de hada.

Manos de ebúrnea blancura
Que en la sombra del mantón
Iluminan la oración
Con luz sideral y pura,
Manos entre cuya albura
La camándula desgrana
Toda la desdicha humana...
Manos de ebúrnea blancura.

Manos de la Caridad
Que a la noche del hambriento
Llevan consuelo y sustento,
Pan de esperanza y verdad,
Manos de eterna bondad,
Nobles y místicas manos,
¡Ah! Todos somos hermanos...
Manos de la Caridad.

Manos pálidas, difuntas
En el amor o el martirio,
Pétalos del mismo lirio,
Manos abiertas o juntas;
Manos llenas de preguntas,
De aspiraciones y anhelo,
Manos tendidas al cielo,
Manos pálidas, difuntas.

Manos que empuñan espada
Y un cetro han hecho en la guerra,
Y que llenaron la tierra
Con la sangre derramada;
Manos de la plebe armada
En la riña o el combate,
Rojas manos de magnate,
Manos que empuñan espada.

Manos duras y sangrientas
Que abren el surco en el suelo
Arido y triste; que el vuelo
No sienten de horas cruentas;
Las que mueven las imprentas,
Las que el taller estremecen,
Las que en las minas perecen,
Manos duras y sangrientas.

Manos hechas al trabajo,
Fuertes manos de hombre libre,
Cuando en el espacio vibre,
Lo mismo arriba que abajo,
Moviendo al mundo de cuajo,
De las justicia la ira...
Vosotras tendréis la lira,
Manos hechas al trabajo!

RIMA

S. José M. Pino

No importa que tu labio pudoroso
que sólo brota virginal plegaria,
en su inocente y tímido recato
me diga que no amas.

Si tus ojos, tan bellos, tan hermosos,
en el lenguaje mistico del alma,
han hablado á la mia muchas veces
de amor y de esperanzas.

The Gold Situation

Argument in Favor of the Government Putting a Premium Upon Gold Mining

BY JOHN CLAUSEN, VICE-PRESIDENT CROCKER NATIONAL BANK OF SAN FRANCISCO

NO MORE interesting chapter will be written in economic history than that which deals with the problem of the proper distribution of the world's gold supply. Probably there was never greater need than now for co-operation of our industrial and financial elements to devise a workable plan for control of an increased production of that precious metal.

A great man once said, "Necessity opens our eyes to the advantage of fresh principles," and as I see it this is now our position. The greatest war that the world has ever known has so altered conditions that new methods and customs must necessarily take the place of the old in order to keep abreast of the times. In reality, a very important issue is presented, namely, whether the standard of value of the world will in future be gold or become a combination of silver and gold; and, if so, what effect such changes would have on the trading powers of nations. It is obvious that if a bi-metallic standard were adopted as media, the question of the value between the metals themselves would become one of vital issue. Then again, there may be a scarcity of gold available as money for the purpose of effecting the sale or purchase of commodities, or as affecting the position of governments and banks and the availability of that precious metal in proportion to liabilities.

There are many interesting angles from which to view this important subject, but it may be of general benefit to recount what happened in this country during and after our Civil War, and in Europe since the beginning of the present hostilities.

As an inevitable result of government policy which had placed upon the banks a burden too heavy for them to carry, the financial institutions in New York and other sections were, during the Civil War, forced to discontinue specie payments, which subsequently brought about the suspension of the National Treasury.

At the beginning of 1862 a bill was introduced which had for its purpose the making of government notes legal tender, and although that measure was considered unconstitutional, it became law in February of the same year. The issue of greenbacks payable to bearer, after several amendments of this bill, was authorized up to a maximum of four hundred million dollars. When the greenbacks were issued it was expected that they would circulate at par with the gold dollar, containing 23.2 grains of pure metal, but a year after the first Legal Tender Act had been passed paper money had an exchange value equal to only 14.5 grains of gold. Its value rose in August, 1863, to 18.4 grains, but fell in July, 1864, to 9 grains, which was its lowest point. The premium on gold was then such that a dollar in paper money was not worth more than 36 cents in gold coin.

The most striking example of profiteering during that period was the Black Friday Conspiracy of September 24, 1864, when a group of speculators bought up large quantities of gold—creating an artificial scarcity—and as a result that commodity could only be obtained from this clique at ruinous terms. This brought about many failures, and to check gambling in gold and reduce the premium on it, the Anti-Gold Law was passed, but as it did not materially bring the premium on gold to a lower level, it was very soon repealed.

In June, 1862, Congress authorized the use of "postage and other stamps of the United States" because of the enormous increase in demand for small currency, notwithstanding the circulation of the so-called "shin-plasters," which were issued in denominations of 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 cents.

In some of the Western States attempts were made to maintain specie payments, after they had been given up in the East, but California alone had the distinction of remaining on a gold basis during the Civil War, and it was not until 1876 that gold again sold at par throughout the United States.

Since that period the more notable event was the panic of 1893, which was followed by a depression throughout the nation, with the result that a large amount of gold was drained from this country to Europe. The Treasury's reserve became so low in November, 1894, that a sale of Government bonds was resorted to; in fact, the stock of coin was reduced to such an extent that there were outstanding more gold notes than coin, leaving a part of the certificates represented by bullion in the form of bars. Again during February of 1895, and also in July of the following year, strong syndicates headed by leading bankers in New York accomplished the difficult task of bolstering up the finances of the United States Government, and it was largely due to their activities that the United States remained on a gold basis. The success of these combinations had a far-reaching influence on business and as soon as it was seen that the gold obtained from abroad was not going to be lost at once as in previous bond sales, confidence was again revived and the financial position of the United States improved so favorably in the eyes of Europe that it was possible to float large blocks of American securities abroad.

In August of 1914 foreign exchange became demoralized, and to remedy that situation a gold pool was again created, when leading banks and bankers throughout the country joined in an agreement to provide for mail and telegraphic transfers to Europe in lieu of gold for export, which proved a helpful factor in restoring order and confidence.

For several years prior to the declaration of war in Europe the countries of France, Russia and Germany especially had been engaged in an eager competitive scramble for gold, which resulted in the holdings of their great state institutions expanding rapidly. On this account, at the outbreak of the war we found them with what was up to that time the peak of their gold reserves.

The embargo which was universally adopted clearly demonstrated the desire of every commercial nation to control and retain its supply of gold. As far as the United States is concerned, other than the necessity of obtaining Government permission to export gold in coin or bars, its circulation in this country has not been restricted—although the efforts of banks and individuals alike are directed towards harmoniously co-operating with the Government in concentrating the nation's supply with the Federal Reserve banks.

One of the most curious economic features of the present situation has been the strong light which it has thrown on the fact that it is possible to have too much of a good thing, even when that thing is gold. This is forcefully demonstrated if we glance at the financial position of the Scandinavian countries, where the law has been carried so far as to relieve the government banks of the statutory obligation to buy gold and coin it for all those who bring it in. This naturally prevented other countries dealing with Scandinavia from paying for purchases in gold, and the barter of commodities was the only means open for concluding commercial transactions

It has lately been said that the world is divided into two classes of countries: those which refuse to accept gold and those which refuse to part with it. Sometimes it is asked how any one can possibly refuse to take gold in payment, but this is easily explained by the fact that gold in bars or foreign coins is not legal tender anywhere. No person in Scandinavia, for example, could be made to take gold bars or American eagles in reimbursement for goods to meet a required payment in legal tender currency of that country.

There are comparatively few who really understand to what a great extent mere credit can be made to do the work of wealth, although the time will come when credit will assuredly break down unless it is built upon a solid foundation. The issue and circulation of paper credits throughout the leading nations of the world has been proportionately far greater than their holdings of gold and has naturally resulted in inflation on an alarming scale.

The thought, however, that Europe may possibly repudiate part of her war debts for the sake of reducing the amount of currency outstanding against government bonds or notes is obviously superficial. Finance has become an international rather than a national question and the monetary history of any one country tends to become more and more merged in the monetary history of the whole civilized world. International credit is firmly established on a gold basis and unless the flow of gold is not too strong in one direction no country has any interest in upsetting the present standard, although it is contended that notwithstanding a great production of new gold it may not necessarily make universal gold standardism possible, as it would be a mere drop in the bucket of our future needs. If the world's credit, therefore, is to be carried on after the war with gold, every ounce that can possibly be produced will be required.

The production of gold is a vitally essential industry which, for obvious reasons, should be promoted to the fullest extent. It is very apparent, however, that with a fixed value for the yellow metal, together with the rapidly increasing cost of material, labor and transportation, this particular industry as now developed is seriously affected and it would seem inevitable that unless some form of government relief—but only as a temporary war measure—is given to the producing mines, many of them will be compelled to discontinue operations.

In a letter addressed to the Hon. Charles A. Sulzer relating to the present conditions concerning the production of gold in Alaska, the Secretary of the Treasury clearly voiced the attitude of our Government when he stated, "I fully appreciate that with the rising cost of raw material and labor and with a fixed value for their output, the gold miners are facing difficult conditions. I should be sorry, however, if for this reason there were any relaxation in the effort to produce gold. At no time has this country so much required the largest possible production of gold as at present. Next to food and ammunition, gold is one of the most needed war essentials. In order to place the enormous amount of Government bonds required to finance our war expenditures, a large credit structure will inevitably be erected on our gold reserves, and it is necessary that these reserves—which are the foundation of the structure—shall be maintained on the broadest possible basis. * * * The man or the community that maintains or increases its production of gold in the face of difficulties and discouragement is performing a patriotic service which deserves recognition no less than the more obvious but not more useful services that are more in the public eye."

There are people who argue that if the Government would agree upon a plan to increase the value of gold from $20.67 to say $40 or $50 a fine ounce, it would make a settlement of obligations possible with only half the metallic requirement otherwise necessary to redeem outstanding paper credits. This course, radical to say the least, would have a disastrous effect upon all credits and especially reflect upon the cost of living which, in all probability, would climb to limits beyond the reach of the average citizen. Increasing the value of gold or giving it a premium does not necessarily give it a higher purchasing power, but, on the other hand, in the final adjustment seriously disrupts the basis of international credit.

When peace comes all the world will be faced with a period of great financial and industrial uncertainty and to pass through it successfully will be a task that will need all the statesmanship civilization can muster. To increase this uncertainty by tampering with the standard of international payment would be an extraordinarily futile means of handling the situation and would only make the confusion worse confounded.

The principal nations of the world have adopted gold as the basis of their currency system. The market price for it is everywhere the same and everywhere equally certain at the standard price of $20.67 an ounce. It may be an anomaly that economic civilization should depend for means of payment on the supply of a particular metal, but it will take much ingenuity to find a practical substitute for gold and secure for it the popularity and confidence that gold now enjoys. The mere fact that it has been chosen by the most enlightened commercial nations is strong proof that it is the best single commodity for practical use as a standard.

The disproportionate distribution of gold among world nations attracts attention to the study of the part that this metal plays and is to play in future in the world's economic affairs, and the question naturally arises whether the production of gold is keeping pace with the world's expansion of credit.

The vast obligations piled up by the nations at war; the huge issues of paper currency; the refunding of debts and resumption of specie payments after the war, are among the most urgent and difficult problems with which the world will be confronted. This makes it only too apparent that gold is a necessity for the credit and financial unity of nations, and it is therefore essential that an adequate foundation of gold must be created to uphold that system.

One of the first acts of the British Government after England was plunged into war was to insure that the gold which was being turned out of the mines should be safeguarded, and steps were taken for the deposit of their new holdings in Canada, South Africa and Australia to the credit of the Bank of England. This arrangement had many advantages and tended greatly to facilitate the concentration of the metal where it was most needed for the settlement of liabilities and Great Britain has in this way used her gold unsparingly to meet obligations to neutral creditors.

The United States stands in the unique position of possessing more gold than any nation has ever before owned at one time, but if we are to perform the part that destiny seems to have laid out for us as the world's banker, it will without doubt be necessary to further increase our gold holdings, and for this reason encourage to the fullest extent the production of that metal.

The end of the war will find the old world not only disorganized industrially, but with a volume—just how large no one can foretell—of paper currency that can only be compared with our own greenbacks in the years immediately following the contest between the North and the South. "The problem of the world's currency after the war," says a great economist, "is not of course decipherable at this time. It involves the question, 'When will the war end?'" There is little fear, however, that Europe will demonetize gold and carry out an economic revolution in changing the present standard, as it is evident that the effect of such a move would be almost as far-reaching as that of the war.

We are at the dawn of a bigger financial and commercial tomorrow and while the situation is fraught with a great many difficulties, because there are no precedents for us to follow, we must face conditions as they exist and through frank and free discussion arrive at a practical and sound solution.

Let us hope that our united efforts will crystallize into a practical plan for the alleviation of the present critical situation, and that in the process of correction we may establish those principles which lie at the base of national welfare.

* * * * * *

The following resolutions have been adopted by several mining and commercial bodies in various portions of the United States:

Whereas, gold production in the United States has declined from one hundred and one million dollars in 1915 to eighty-four million dollars in 1917, with a still greater decrease now taking place, the production of California alone having declined three million dollars in the first six months of the present year; and

Whereas, this decrease is principally due to the increased cost and shortage of labor and material, the price of gold, as our standard of value, being fixed by law at the invariable figure of $20.6718 per ounce, thus being the only important product which has not obtained an increased market price due to the present war conditions; and

Whereas, under present conditions capital cannot be obtained for gold mining, but is generally being withdrawn wherever possible from the said industry; and

Whereas, on account of the increased cost of production with no increase at all in the market price of their product, many mines have been forced to cease operations in the last six months and many others are now running at a loss and are about to be closed down or abandoned and from their nature will require years to be re-opened, so that a large portion of the gold mining industry is now threatened with extinction; and

Whereas, a war emergency exists, which we are advised by our own government necessitates the maintenance, and if possible the increase, of gold production of the United States, as of next importance after food and war munitions, being of vital importance as a basis for our continually expanding credits, which are increasing both for the financing of the war and for reconstruction after the war; and

Whereas, the gold resources of the United States are adequate to maintain our former production, and to afford under proper encouragement a substantially increased production; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting that of all the various measures which have been suggested, the following will be most effective in maintaining and encouraging the production of gold in the United States; namely:

Relief by the United States to the gold producers of this country to correspond with the increased cost of production, the extent of such relief to be fixed from time to time to meet changing conditions.

That nothing contained in these resolutions as passed is to be construed as meaning and intending to alter the amount of gold in the dollar, nor to place a premium upon gold.

A grand total of 82,459 alumnos have registered in the school of the Federal District for the season. The number last year was 7287 less than for this.

Mexico and the United States as Friends

Nature Having Made the Two Countries Next-Door Neighbors Complete Amity Should Always Exist

THE necessity for the constant encouragement and permanent maintenance of not only merely friendly but the most cordial relations between Mexico and the United States is so obviously apparent as almost to require no argument or explanation. But because many do not recognize this necessity, a few observations upon this important and vital topic may not be out of place or prove uninteresting or unworthy of careful consideration.

Nature has made the two countries next-door neighbors. Only an easily crossed river for a large portion of the upwards of three thousands miles of boundary and an imaginary line for the remainder separate the two countries. There are no natural barriers to interrupt intercourse of the freest possible character. But even if there were such obstacles as are provided by lofty and not readily passable mountain ranges, or by great rivers or other bodies of water, that would not obviate the necessity for unvarying friendliness. Both countries have a community of interest, whether industrially or politically, that should bind them together with hooks of steel—hooks of copper and silver and gold, of food and clothing, of machinery and supplies, of the thousand and one manufactured or unmanufactured products that are essential to the well-being and development of both countries alike.

From a purely material standpoint each country needs the other. Mexico, that incomparably endowed storehouse of the world, needs the capital and the enterprise of her nearest neighbor for the development of her minerals, her forests, her agricultural resources and her vast array of latent wealth. While it is natural perhaps that there should be some sensitiveness on this score, still scarcely any one will deny the fact that such development as has already taken place has been largely at the instigation and through the initiative and enterprise of those not native to the soil. This is not the only instance in the world's history of the kind. That such should be the case, it is no disparagement to say, is due to inherent and inherited natural causes and qualities and should therefore be no reason for resentment or unfriendliness. Nature, in her inscrutable designs, has given one race qualities which she has denied to others, and it is only by uniting and giving those qualities full play that the results are reached that are most conducive to the welfare and best development of all.

On the part of many who have been engaged in the development referred to there has been a real and earnest desire to encourage and benefit their neighbors. Not every one has deserved to be classed as a mere "dollar seeker," though it is lamentably true enough that many of all nationalities have placed themselves in that category. As a matter of fact, the Conquistadores themselves set the example of a ruthless pursuit of wealth regardless of the rights or feelings of the owners of the land which they invaded.

But there is a natural need on both sides, each for the other, which should result in the most cordial reciprocity and friendliness. The United States needs the silver and gold, the copper, the oil and other minerals; the sugar, the coffee, the fiber, the tobacco, the hides, the hard woods, the thousand and one other mineral and agricultural products which she either does not produce herself, or if at all, not in sufficient quantity to supply the demands of her people for consumption. Mexico, on the other hand, needs supplies of food, of clothing, of machinery, of manufactured articles covering the widest possible range and which are not or cannot be produced within her boundaries. The needs of each nation are a complement to those of the other, and under normal conditions there should be and indeed is no hindrance to the freest possible interchange of commodities. Under the dominant and pre-eminent stress and necessity of war such interchange must unavoidably be regulated and checked, to the manifest inconvenience of both sides. But since self-protection is the imperative law of nature for nations as well as individuals, temporary interruptions of this character are unavoidable and their necessity should be recognized by those who under other conditions might feel that they had just cause for complaint. But such occasions are only of temporary duration, and have little if any bearing upon what should be the general policy and sentiment of the two countries toward each other. Not too strongly can it be urged that from purely material considerations alone there should be only the utmost friendship and co-operation between the two neighboring countries.

It is not necessary to go into the question of a community of political interest and all that it involves. It is so perfectly obvious that Mexico must look to her necessarily more powerful neighbor on the north to prevent any attempted foreign interference, such as that of the French of the middle of the last century, for example, not only as a protection to Mexico herself, but also to safeguard her own interests from similar aggression, that there can be no well-founded refusal to recognize the necessity for the most friendly understanding and co-operation between the two countries that occupy so dominating a position and influence on the North American continent. Whoever seeks to prevent or destroy that understanding and that co-operation in any manner is an enemy to his own as well as to the other country. It is not too much to say that the sovereignty of Mexico and her inviolability and integrity as a nation depend to a great extent if not entirely upon her relations with the United States. There is no alternative, as all intelligent and far-sighted men readily must concede.

It has been well said that "God made Mexico and the Untied States next-door neighbors, and only the devil can make them enemies." And those who seek in any manner to foment distrust and enmity between the two countries can only be actuated by the most unfriendly not to say devilish motives.

American Tomato Seed

Some time ago THE REVIEW republished a Consular report on tomato production in Mazatlan, in which reference was made to losses due to inferior seed. As there is yet time for American seedmen to collect good seed for export to this section of Mexico, it is desired to draw attention to the fact that tomato growers are becoming interested in the purchase of suitable seed for the approaching planting season, which begins the 1st of November.

The local manager of a large house interested in exporting tomatoes to the United States is planning to make a special trip thither to procure the best tomato seed possible for the planters whose tomatoes his house handles. He states it as his purpose to visit a few American seed houses and lay his needs before them while there is yet opportunity to collect good seed from tomatoes produced in the United States this summer, so that he may be assured of an adequate fresh supply of seeds.

It is estimated that some 700 hectares (1,730 acres) of land were devoted to tomato production last year; and that, owing to the success of that and the three prior crops which were raised for export to the United States, the area will be doubted this year. Manifestly it will be in the interest of American seedmen and of consumers in the United States of the Mexican west coast tomato crop—not only in the present but in future years—to take steps to collect good seed for export to this district. A trade in seed can be established this year which will be reasonably permanent and of increasing importance, and advantage should be taken of the opportunity which now offers for this business.

The American consul at Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico, will take pleasure in supplying any interested American exporters of seed with a list of tomato growers in his district upon request; but in his replies to their inquiries will, in every case, insist upon good seed being furnished where orders are secured as a result of his efforts.

Lectures on Mexico

Mr. Manuel Carpio, the well-known Mexican student and lecturer, has recently returned from a tour of investigation of Yucatan and other portions of his country, where he has made a careful study of conditions and the wonderful development accomplished as a result of the Revolution. He proposes to address American audiences upon this question and promises a fund of valuable and intensely interesting information regarding labor, social, industrial, educational and other matters in the neighboring Republic. He may be addressed through the office of the Mexican News Bureau, 613 Riggs Building, Washington, D. C.

America's Banking Strength

Tremendous Increase in Its Financial Strength—New Methods Caused by the War

BY WILL PAYNE

THAT the financial institutions of the United States have been able not only to meet the tremendous strain placed upon them by the expenditure of untold billions for war purposes, but actually to flourish under this strain, is due chiefly to the flexibility of the Federal Bank System, established early in President Wilson's first administration.

About ten years ago the Monetary Commission, appointed by the United States Senate, made a voluminous report on which reformation of the American banking system was largely based.

At that time—1909—there were 25,512 banks in the United States. Their deposits, excluding the deposits of one bank with another bank, were somewhat over fourteen billion dollars. Adding capital, surplus and circulating notes outstanding, their total power of extending credit was just short of nineteen billion dollars.

At the last report before the United States declared war on Germany the number of banks had increased to 30,525; their deposits to twenty-three billion dollars, and their total power of extending credit to twenty-nine billions.

In 1909 each bank was a completely separate unit. There was no legal organism by which even two banks could act together, except as the more important banks in cities voluntarily joined in clearing-house associations whose normal purpose was simply to facilitate the daily clearing of checks.

The typical situation was this: Banks throughout the State of Nebraska, say, kept the larger part of their reserve funds on deposits with the leading banks of Omaha, and the Omaha banks kept the larger part of their reserves with the big banks of Chicago and New York. Michigan banks deposited their reserves in Detroit, and Detroit deposited its reserve in New York. The large central cities of the interior, headed by Chicago, kept an important part of their reserves on deposit with big New York banks.

Thus at any decided stringency in money—especially of a panicky sort—a tremendous pull from the whole country centered on the big Wall Street banks, each of which stood alone. Those banks had nowhere to turn. There was no legal method by which they could liquidate their assets rapidly to meet an emergency. Besides cash, they held notes, payable on demand and secured by Stock Exchange collateral. But in a pinch, if they began throwing this collateral on the market in order to realize cash, the Stock Exchange went into a panic and the market for the collateral disappeared.

Now a great part of the bank reserves of the whole country are held by the Federal Reserve Banks, managed by a board appointed by the President of the United States and acting as a unit. These reserve banks will immediately, at any time, rediscount good commercial paper having not more than ninety days to run and endorsed by the bank which originally discounted it—either issuing circulating notes therefor or giving the discounting bank reserve credit. In short, a bank can at once turn its sound assets into cash and from having had, in 1909, the most unliquid banking system in the world we now have one of the most liquid—and one that no longer hangs upon the big Wall Street institutions.

So the figures given above tell only the smaller part of the story as to the actual increase in American banking power. In 1909 a crisis might at any time have paralyzed that nineteen billion dollars of bank assets—jellied it, so to speak. In fact, substantially that had happened only two years before in the panic of 1907. Now, thanks to the Federal Reserve system, paralysis of lending power is impossible. Knowledge of that fact gives a confidence to the banking system and to its depositors which was not present before. For example, banks everywhere lend with the greatest freedom to Liberty Bond subscribers and still meet legitimate commercial demands without hesitation. They know that as long as they hold good paper they cannot be tied up. While there are still many banks which are not members of the Reserve System, its benefits practically extend to all.

Banking power of the United States, meaning aggregate of capital, surplus, deposits and circulating notes—in short, of lendable funds—was twenty-nine billion dollars in 1916. In his report for 1908 the Comptroller of the Currency calculated the banking power of the world, exclusive of the United States, at a little over twenty-eight billion dollars. Mulhall, in 1890, calculated the banking power of the world at a trifle under sixteen billion dollars, of which the United States' share was five billions.

Diffusion of the wealth represented by bank deposits is another important item. Aggregate bank deposits in 1909 included $3,713,405,710 of savings deposits, credited to 8,831,863 depositors. In 1916 the numbers of depositors had increased to 11,148,392 and the amount to their credit to $5,088,587,294.

This, however, includes only the returns of those institutions which are organized distinctively as savings banks. In the United States a great many banks not distinctively so organized have savings departments in which deposits are received on the same terms as in savings banks and from the same class of depositors. Thus in 1916 national banks held over a billion dollars of deposits subject to thirty days' notice which were mainly in fact savings deposits. Banking institutions organized as loan and trust companies held $1,214,090,179 of savings deposits and State banks held $961,693,954. These are savings deposits in exactly the same way that deposits held by concerns organized under the name of savings banks are. Almost all the savings deposits in Chicago, for example, are held by loan and trust companies and State or national banks. The aggregate is well over eight billion dollars.

Of the 30,525 banks in 1916 only 7,579 were national banks, and the latter held about one-third of the aggregate deposits. Being under the supervision of the Comptroller of the Currency, however, the national banks are reported upon more fully than other banks. In 1910 there were 7,690,468 deposits, or deposit accounts, in national banks and 27,979,542 depositors, or deposit accounts, in all banks. In 1916 the number of depositors in national banks had increased to 14,288,059—nearly a hundred per cent. That ratio would not apply to all other banks—as to which there are no comprehensive reports under that head in recent years—but there are certainly forty million bank accounts in the country.

This credit strength is now organized, mobile and free from its former dependency on Wall Street.

Petroleum Development

A Pennsylvania corporation has been engaged in prospecting the territory covered by an important concession in the interior of Colombia in what appear to be oil-bearing lands during the past two years and early in April of this year brought in a well that gives promise of being a good producer, tapping the oil-bearing strata at about 1,500 feet. Oil-bearing sands were also passed through at 500 and 1,200 foot depths. This well, unfinished as it stands, is said to be good for from 1,000 to 2,000 barrels per day of light, asphalt-base oil.

This company is operating on the Colorado River, about 35 miles east of the Magdalena River at Barranca Bermeja, or about 420 miles from the mouth of the Magdalena. The company has also a second well drilling and it has reached a depth of about 740 feet and is reported to be in a very promising formation.

Several efforts have been made at various times to develop oil in Colombia in commercial quantities, but without previous success. Various wells have been drilled near Puerto Colombia by a Canadian and, later, an American company; south of Barranquilla by a California promotor; and in the valley of the Sinu River by an American company, but none have proven producers.

A New York company is now drilling near Mariquita, along the La Dorada Extension Railway, 200 miles to the south of the Tropical Oil Co.'s workings. Various other American companies have done superficial exploration work in Colombia and some have secured extensive optional leases on lands supposed to be oil bearing, but only those mentioned have done any active mechanical work.

After the termination of the war it is expected the oil fields of Colombia will meet with considerable development at the hands of American and other foreign interests.

—*Consular and Trade Reports.*

Coffee Growing In Mexico

Something About One of the Principal Corps of the Tropical Portion of the Country

BY ALVIN FOX, HORTICULTURIST

THIS plant is indigenous to Abyssinia and the southern parts of Arabia and was introduced to tropical Mexico by the Spaniards. It belongs to the family of Rubiaceae genus coffeas. Several varieties are known. The common coffee shrub is an evergreen plant, which under favorable conditions grows to the height of from ten to twenty feet. The fruit is a fleshy berry, and as it ripens it assumes a dark-red color, containing one, two or three seeds. A coffee plantation at maturity presents a very attractive appearance, the glossy green leaves affording a picturesque background for the brilliantly glowing fruit.

The soil best suited to this crop is a sandy clay loam, rich in humus, deep and with good drainage, as the plant has a tap root penetrating more than three feet into the ground. An impervious soil should not be used, as the tree suffers severely in damp localities. Calcareous soils are also undesirable for this crop. However, lime should be present in the soil in small quantities. The silicious-ferruginous soils are desirable, as in such leaf blight is not so destructive.

The lands on the lower mountain slopes produce berries with larger seeds, though according to some authorities with less aroma than the coffee grown on the highlands. Coffee should never be planted near the sea unless good wind-breaks are provided. The strong sea breeze blows away many flowers and consequently the yield is decreased.

From two to three seedlings are planted in each hole, dropping some earth and giving a little jerk to the plants so that the roots will not be bent. The hole is then filled to the top, rounding up enough earth to the trunk so that when the soil settles down there will be no hollow space where the water can settle. The seed selected for planting should not be kept for over a year, as it soon loses its germinating power. It always should be picked and kept during the four or five months between harvesting and the planting season.

The soil for seedbeds should be prepared with the utmost care. Beds seven feet wide by any length desired should be prepared, with furrows two to three centimeters apart, dropping the seeds at a distance of from ten to fifteen centimeters in the furrows. They are afterwards covered with finely pulverized soil and protected from the intense sun. Some planters spread over the seedbeds banana leaves or leaves from the guano or the royal palm, in order to preserve sufficient moisture for germination. The germination starts a month or a month and a half after the seed is planted and when the seedlings have attained the necessary height they are transplanted to another bed, where they are set at a distance of from 25 to 30 centimeters until they are sufficiently strong and vigorous to be transferred to the field.

This last bed should be protected from the scorching sun, either with some kind of elevated bower or by planting shade trees, as the banana, castor bean, etc. In every coffee plantation there should always be a bed of this kind to replace clear spots with trees of the same age. When the trees are from 30 to 40 centimeters high, which will be in about six months, they will be ready for definite planting in the field. The most vigorous ones should be selected and all the weak ones discarded. Some planters recommend not to transplant the seedlings to the field until they are a year and a half or two years old, these being called forked seedlings. But the younger the seedlings are the less will be the disturbance in transplanting and the results are more satisfactory.

The best time for transplanting is in the months of May and June. The distance at which the plants should be set in the fields cannot be determined in a general way, depending, in the first place, on the kind of soil. In rich soils the distance should be greater than in poor ones or on hillsides, as first mentioned. The planting is generally done in squares of three by three meters. If trees are planted too close they are liable to Cryptogamous disease. Besides growing slender, they become too high, on account of the tendency of all vegetables to seek the light. On the other hand, if there is not sufficient light and air the crop will be deficient.

During the first two years the centers of the rows can be used for some other crop without resulting in any damage to the coffee trees. Such crops as pineapples, etc., and especially some legume such as cow peas which furnish to the soil a great amount of vegetable matter can be profitably grown. After this the field should be exclusively dedicated to coffee, taking good care to destroy all weeds and furnishing the necessary moisture, but it must be borne in mind that an excess of water is harmful, especially in fruiting time, because irrigation causes the coffee to lose its aroma and quality. It is a good practice to deeply plow the soil every four or five years, taking care not to injure the roots, and also to fertilize if it is necessary. It is also very important to clear the trees if they are growing too close and keep the planting free from injurious animals like mices, which destroy the seed covering.

Some planters affirm that coffee trees growing in the open yield the same as if shaded, but I am not of the same opinion. Coffee trees under shade last longer; besides, the trees used for shade are beneficial in many respects, provided they are properly situated, for if they are too close the coffee trees will grow too slender and are exposed to fungus attacks. Shade trees help to retain the moisture in the soil. They protect the planting against strong winds, this being the worst enemy of all, especially in the blooming season, and they also help to maintain a certain amount of moisture in the lower atmospheric layers, producing a faint light suitable to the vegetations. But not all trees are suitable for the purpose. Those with the highest crown and whose roots will not intermingle with those of the coffee trees should be selected; they should also be of long life and resistance to strong winds.

It is advisable to plant shrubs of short life in order to protect the new plants, and also trees of long life to protect the plants when grown up. Among the first we have the castor bean and the banana in its different varieties. This last one especially is the most suitable, as once the coffee trees are grown up it is easy to cut down the banana trees, leaving only the trees of long life, which should be planted from 12 to 15 meters apart.

One of the operations demanding practical experience is the pruning of coffee trees. A pruning knife in unskilled hands will mean the ruin of a coffee plantation. This operation should be carried out at least every two years, after the crop is harvested. By so doing the trees grow in better shape. The trees when pruned strengthen and thicken their stems and their system of branches, these later being the organism for fruit bearing. All suckers and shoots should be taken off. When they the tender this can be easily done by hand.

The fertilizer preferred by this plant is phosphate, but other elements should also be applied if there is a deficiency of them in the soil. The amount of each element must be determined according to the nature and composition of the soil.

Green manures, if grown between the rows, will serve a double purpose, providing humus and maintaining the soil moisture.

The first picking begins in September and keeps on till January. As the picking is done according to the ripening of the berries, it is necessary to make two or three pickings, the second one being the most important. A short time after the flowers have appeared the fruit starts to set, and when ripe the picking begins.

The berries should be picked one by one, never "squeezing" or "milking," as in this way the undeveloped blossoms are injured and some unripe berries are gathered. The berries should not be kept to ripen too much, as in this condition any light shower will bring them down. Rains are always harmful after the fruit ripens, and for this reason the ground under the trees should always be kept clean. Some planters harvest the fruit by spreading blankets or other suitable material under the trees, shaking them so that the berries will drop; this practice is not commendable by any means; by shaking the trees not only the ripe but also the unripe berries will drop. If the branches are high they should be carefully bent so that they will not break, though they are quite flexible.

For the drying operation there are also appropriate machines where the berries receive a current of hot air, which makes them lose their moisture in a few minutes, while by the old method it takes several days. Once the coffee is hulled and dried the grading can be done with sieves of different gauges or the

Taxes on Metal Exports

The Secretary of the Treasury has issued the following rates of taxation on metals for export during the month of October—the figures being in Mexican gold per kilo (2 1/5 lbs.) in weight, the value of the Mexican dollar being in the neighborhood of 55 cents American gold:

Gold in bars or ingots—$93.33. In minerals or concentrates, $106.67.

Silver in bars or ingots—$4.561. In minerals or concentrates, $5.213.

Copper in bars or ingots—5.732 cents. In minerals or concentrates, 6.878 cents. In bars, matte or concentrates, containing more than 50 per cent of copper and less than 300 grams of silver and 5 grams of gold per ton, 2.866 cents.

Lead in bars or ingots—0.798 of one cent. In minerals or concentrates, 1.064 cents.

Zinc in bars or ingots—0.296 of one cent. In minerals or concentartes, 0.395 of one cent.

Tin, in bars or ingots—3.538 cents. In minerals or concentrates, 4.246 cents.

Antimony, in bars or ingots—0.443 of one cent. In minerals or concentrates, 0.615 of one cent.

Tungsten in minerals or concentrates—19.048 cents.

Molybdenite in minerals—22.090 cents.

The quotations given are net, and are based upon the total value in accordance with the decree of April 26, 1918.

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machinery separating three grades, as follows:

First, small contorted and bluish berries, called in Spanish "caracotillo" and of superior quality.

Second, small and somewhat roundish grains.

Third, large and light grains, which are the inferior quality.

In order to keep it for a long time the moisture must be driven out, otherwise the grain will get mouldy.

Besides the direct yield from the coffee trees we have the fruits and timber of the other trees which have been planted. An apiary can also be established from which good returns can be expected.

A coffee tree may yield from three to five pounds of coffee and even more, and if it is well attended may be kept yielding for nearly 100 years.

Among the several enemies of the crop there is the slug, which causes an injury that breaks the young trees at the foot. Spraying with arsenate of lead or distributing poisoned baits through the fields is recommended.

The coffee-leaf miner is a small flying insect which attacks the plants in the evening, staining the leaves a brown color, which later becomes dark. Against this insect the best remedy is to take off the infected leaves and burn them.

A form of scale is combated by spraying the plants with a solution of iron sulphate in the proportion of one grain of sulphate for every litre of water.

The mouse that eats the berry covering should be destroyed by every means at disposal.

Water for Irrigation Purposes

The Rights of Irrigators and Other Users of Water Defined by Law

AGRICULTURISTS who seek concessions for the use and benefit of water for irrigation, have, under the law of December 10, 1910, declared in force by a recent ruling of the Secretary of Agriculture and Fomento, preference over those who ask it to produce power, motor force or for other industries, and also for the agricultural purpose of covering the land with silt.

Of those who ask water for irrigation the right is given first to proprietors of farms bordering on streams and among these the preference is given to those who lawfully are already in possession of a concession. Among several such claimants the right is given to the one who has held possession longest.

Those who are not owners of lands are not able to obtain concessions for water for irrigation except under the following restrictions:

The use and benefit of water for domestic purposes must be for the inhabitants of towns, whether situated or not on water courses, and the rights of other consumers under former concessions who are in lawful possession.

A concession may only be contested when the opposition is founded on a priority claim or the rights that the contestor may have over the applicant, in which case his opposition must be accompanied by a document establishing his claim to the concession.

The time for contesting a claim for the use and benefit of water is seventy days, counted from the last publication in the Official Federal paper and in the Official paper of the state where the concession is asked.

The Government can grant to the concessionaire under this law the following exemptions: Land taxes for five years, except stamp taxes, import duties on machinery, tool, fixtures, hydraulic material for generation, transportation and accumulation of power.

The Government can also grant right of way through private properties for examination, for making maps and formation of plans for profiting by the concession, sewers along the canals, telegraph and telephone lines and lines for the transmission of force, the right to occupy unappropriated and public lands with the works of the concession and the construction of telephone and telegraph wires for the use of the concessionaire.

The concessionaire is obliged to observe the following: The times fixed for the surveys and making the maps of the locations of the works, their presentation to the Department of Agriculture and Fomento for approval, to begin and complete the works, and the order in which he must execute them. The maximum rates must also be submitted to this same department and a deposit of a certain sum in national notes is required as a guarantee of good faith that he will fulfill his contract. He is prohibited to transfer the concession independent of the works and he must construct the necessary works in a manner so as not to interrupt lines of communication, nor to interfere with other works or properties.

The Proposed International Labor Conference

AT a recent meeting of the Federation of Labor Unions of the Federal District, the following propositions were adopted and will be submitted to the American Federation of Labor concerning the proposed international conference to be held at Laredo in November of this year:

First—Immediately upon the opening of the conference, a commission will be appointed which shall ask of President Wilson and President Carranza the freedom of those workingmen who have any relations with the world movement for the alleviation of their condition and other social conditions.

Second—The establishment of a Pan-American Federation of Labor, represented by a committee nominated by a plurality of votes of five members—two from the American Federation of Labor, two from the Federation of Labor Unions of the Federal District and the Rural Federation of Mexican Workingmen, and one from groups having no affiliation with either of those bodies.

Third—It is mutually pledged among the groups represented that they shall lend their mutual aid toward facilitating the passage of laboring men individually from one country to the other, in the unions, with due consideration for their economic condition, and collectively to guard the integrity of the groups, their development and furthermore to guarantee and make sure their respect.

Fourth—To utilize all the measures possible for the protection of the rights and interests of the two nations, especially those pertaining to emigration.

Fifth—The exclusion from all points of undesirable immigrants; the exercise of whatever influence they have for the intensification of the European war; the breaking of the neutrality of Mexico with reference thereto; the mingling in local politics in both countries, and when they can be regulated by their own officials in any other manner than by resort to arms.

A New Fibre Discovered

A very important discovery has been made in the State of Jalisco, Mexico, which consists in obtaining a magnificent fibre, which has been found to be very resistent and of many applications in industries, and is produced by a tree called "cuázuma" or "cuahulote." This tree grows abundantly in different sections of the state named.

The travelling Botanist appointed by the Department of Agriculture to make various scientific researches in the aforementioned State, has already sent several samples of this fibre, which has been chemically analyzed and found to be of the finest quality. The fibre can be obtained, utilizing at the same time the bark of the tree that produces it, which is sometimes from 20 to 30 centimetres in diameter, by means of maceration, and it is procured at a very low cost.

The Bureau of Biological Studies is now carrying on an active propaganda in order that the planting and exploitation of these trees be extended in the State of Jalisco.

Great Demand for Cocoanuts

The United States Consumes Immense Quantities—
A Promising Field for Mexican Growers

THE announcement from Washington of the cancellation of the order of June 28th, by which the importation of copra into the United States was suspended, calls attention to a remarkable increase in the use of the cocoanut and its products in the United States in recent years.

"Copra" as is well known is the trade name for the dried meat of the cocoanut. A compilation by The National City Bank of New York shows that the quantity of copra brought into the United States in the fiscal year 1918 just ended was approximately ten times as much as in the year before the war. From a modest 56,000,000 pounds in the fiscal year 1914, all of which preceded the war, the figures grew to 90,000,000 pounds in 1915; 110,000,000 in 1916; 247,000,000 in 1917 and about 550,000,000 pounds in 1918. The tropical sections of the whole world are being ransacked for the cocoanut, and the imports into the United States are drawn from more than 30 countries and islands representing every grand division of the globe. Oceania is by far the largest contributor and our own Philippine Islands supplied nearly one-half of the approximately 550,000,000 pounds entering the United States in the fiscal year 1918. The recent orders of the Government upon this subject again permit the importation of all copra except that classed as "shredded, desiccated or prepared," which has formed in the past but an extremely small proportion of the copra imported into the United States. The quantity imported in 1918 of this class which is still excluded was but about 20,000,000 pounds out of a grand total of 550,000,000 pounds imported.

Even this tremendous increase in the importation of copra tells only a part of the story of the increased demand for the product of the cocoanut. The quantity of cocoanut oil imported has also rapidly increased, from 74,000,000 pounds in 1914 to about 250,000,000 pounds in 1918, and of this our Philippine Islands also contributed more than one-half.

The United States apparently consumed in the fiscal year 1918 the product of over 2,000,000,000 cocoanuts. Accepted authorities indicate that one pound of copra represents the meat of three averaged-sized cocoanut; and as the importation of copra for the year is about 550,000,000 pounds and of oil about 250,000,000, the total number of nuts represented by these two importations would be approximately 2,400,000,000 cocoanuts, while the number of nuts imported in the natural state from foreign countries and our own islands during the year amounted to about 100,000,000, bringing the total of the nuts represented by these three classes of imports up to approximately 2½ billions against about 500,000,000 in 1914. The value of the cocoanuts, copra and cocoanut oil imported in 1918 is about $60,000,000, against approximately $12,000,000 in 1914.

This great increase in the use of the cocoanut in the United States is apparently due, in some degree at least, to the decrease in the supply of meats, fats, and dairy products available for the use of our own people. The number of food animals in the country in 1918 is about the same in proportion to population as in 1914, but as we are compelled under the exigencies of the war to greatly increase our exports of meats and dairy products, the supply remaining for our own people has necessarily decreased. The quantity of meat exported in the fiscal year 1918 is approximately 2,000,000,000 pounds including that sent on Government vessels, against about 450,000,000 pounds in the year preceding the war; and the quantity of dairy products including butter, cheese and condensed milk has increased from 22,000,000 pounds in 1914 to 590,000,000 pounds in 1918. The total exports of meats, fats and dairy products increased from a little over 1,000,000,000 pounds in 1914 to about 3,000,000,000 in 1918. As a result of these conditions, people of the United States are greatly increasing their use of vegetable oils, especially that from the cocoanut. A part of the oil thus retained is utilized in the manufacture of margarine and substituted for butter, and other parts for cooking fats, while large quantities are also used in the production of glycerine required for war purposes and the residue utilized in the manufacture of soap and candles.

Most of the copra and cocoanut oil imported comes from the Philippine Islands, Australia, Dutch East Indies, and other islands of the Pacific, while most of the cocoanuts imported come from Panama, Honduras, and the West Indian islands; the average price of the cocoanuts imported being about 3 cents each in the country of production.

The foregoing is of interest to Mexico, since the cocoanut grows in abundance in many sections and could be cultivated upon an almost unlimited scale with profit.

Preparations are being made to largely increase the output of the mines (mostly copper) in the Cananea section of the State of Sonora. Many carloads of railway material have recently been shipped thither from the United States, to be used in the betterment of the transportation facilities. All the mines are increasing their forces as well as their machinery, and a period of unexampled activity has been inaugurated.

Among the articles largely imported into the United States from the West Coast of Mexico are many hundreds of tons of dyewood, for which there is an increasing demand in New York for manufacturing purposes, to take the place of dyes formerly imported from Europe. The supply of these woods is practically inexhaustible and affords a lucrative occupation for hundreds of natives.

The Cabinet Ministry has under discussion the adoption of an income tax law, which will be presented to the present session of Congress. It is expected to remedy in this manner certain difficulties connected with the internal revenue stamp law which are no longer adapted to modern commercial conditions.

NOTES OF INTEREST

A largely attended conference was held recently at Saltillo, capital of the State of Coahuila, between workingmen and those interested in sociological progress, at which many measures were discussed looking to the advancement of the people in general. It is only since the triumph of the Revolution that matters of this sort have been possible.

The head tax of $8 American gold collected by the United States Government from all immigrants coming from Mexico into this country has been suspended so far as agricultural laborers are concerned, but is still in force as to immigrants of other classes. This is the statement made by the American immigration officials.

A proposition has been made by the chief of the mercantile pilot service in Vera Cruz to supply the city of Mexico with abundance of fresh fish at a rate which will enable it to be sold at an average of a little over ten cents per pound American gold. This is much less than the usual prices that are demanded.

Many refugees have recently arrived in the southern portion of the Republic from Guatemala, whence they have been driven by the earthquakes which have been so destructive. Under instructions of the President they have been given free passage to whatever portion of the Republic was their former home.

On March 26th the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Plan of Guadalupe was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies by President Carranza and his associates. Many of the original signers of that declaration were present, although many lost their lives in bringing about its final triumph.

The exportation of pearl shell from all the west coast ports of Mexico has been prohibited for a period beginning with April 1st and to and including the month of September. This has been done in order to prevent the destruction of the pearl oyster beds of the Gulf of California and adjacent waters.

The Government has recently purchased in Chile a steamer of ten thousand tons capacity, which will be utilized for traffic on the west coast of Mexico and South America. The vessel will bring as its first cargo a large amount of grain and food, as well as a shipment of nitrate.

On the first of the present month the issue of international postal money orders was resumed between the United States and Mexico. American dollars will be received and disbursed at the option of the holder or applicant, and Mexican gold will be also received and paid on the basis of the rate of exchange established at Nuevo Laredo, State of Tamaulipas.

An attempt to smuggle $300,000 in 50-cent pieces into the United States was recently frustrated at Laredo, and one-half of the amount was declared forfeited to the National Government under the law forbidding such exportation. The high bullion value of the coins was the reason for the attempt.

The Oriental Steamship Company "Toyo-Kishem-Kaisha," a Japanese organization, has decided to resume its bi-monthly service between west coast Mexican and Central American ports and San Francisco, Cal. It had been suspended for some time. The first trips will be made in October.

The production of vegetable oils from various sources has received a great impetus in Mexico since the outbreak of the war in Europe. Coquito or palm nuts, peanuts, castor beans and other oil-bearing growths are in demand for this purpose.

Cultivation of Guayule

Propagation of This Valuable Rubber Producing Shrub in a Scientific Manner and With Good Results

THE guayule shrub (*Parthenium argentatum*) was formerly grown with more or less success by means of seed. It would seem that this method would be the most economical, but in practice it has often failed. The Central Agricultural Station has occupied itself with this subject and has turned the study of its production over to the Horticultural Division.

This division took advantage of the seed furnished by the Secretary of Fomento to study cultivation in this manner, with the result that few of the plants reached maturity, owing to the fact that fertile seed are scarce.

While Professor Calvino was making these experiments a writer on agriculture, Salvador Creel, announced that several years ago he had succeeded in growing guayule by slips or cuttings. This idea was approved by Professor Calvino, and he took the necessary steps to perfect the planting by means of herbaceous cuttings, because it is by these means that the anthemis and the chrysanthemum, which are of the same family, are multiplied.

Through Mr. Lorenzo Gonzales Trevino the Central Agricultural Station obtained cuttings of the guayule shrub with the leaves cut and fastened in potatoes, that they might retain their freshness. These arrived the first of last September. Woody, semi-woody and herbaceous cuttings were planted in open boxes, and in cold frames under glass. The herbaceous and semi-herbaceous slips germinated in ten days, the woody in fifteen in the cold frame, and those in open boxes in twenty days.

The woody cuttings are made in spring from pieces of branches which are cut from 15 to 30 centimeters, burying them in the ground to a depth of from 12 to 25 centimeters.

The semi-woody cuttings are made in the spring from the points of the branches and wood two or three years old. These cuttings are made from 15 to 25 centimeters long.

If there is a herbaceous point on the upper part, it may be cut off, the leaves removed, leaving the eyes only on the slip. On the lower extremity a little fragment with the wood that has this bud may be left, or it can be cut off entirely. As the slips have many joints close together, there is no need to look for a suitable place to cut it at the lower extremity, because the cut always remains under any joint.

The slips thus prepared are planted at a distance of 5 centimeters apart in rows 6 centimeters from each other. The plants are buried from 12 to 21 centimeters in the bed, which is prepared beforehand, well sifted and mixed with sand and manure.

As soon as the slips are planted they must be covered with mats of rushes or with cloth, that the sun may not dry the plants before they take root. The covering serves also to protect from the changes in the temperature that are always harmful at this stage of growth. On days when the sun is not strong and the slips have begun to bud, they must be uncovered to the light, so that the plants may be strengthened. In thirty or forty days the coverings may be permanently removed. The plants should be watered daily with tepid water.

The herbaceous slip is made from the tender parts of the branches, cutting it 10 centimeters long, stripping off the leaves and leaving the terminal bud and the eyes. In the lower extremity cut immediately below a joint.

These slips are planted in beds, the earth of which has been prepared beforehand and covered with a layer of sand two centimeters thick. Place in rows 5 centimeters apart at a depth of from 6 to 7 centimeters. Keep well covered. This must be strictly observed, as the risks are always great.

During the next rainy season, that is to say in July, the plants may be transferred to their permanent place or they may await the following rainy season. For the last planting it is better to prepare the holes in which the shoots are to be placed some months beforehand. In this way the soil will be more fertile.

The planting done, the ground around the plants must be covered with a thick layer of dried leaves or grass and the plants with large leaves or paper.

The daily rains water the plants, but in case of a drouth water should be applied by hand, a liter of water being sufficient for each one. The layer of leaves or other covering prevents the soil from drying, thereby helping the plants to take root.

The system of growing guayule by means of cuttings is much more sure than by seed. The advantage of the former is in the selection and propagation of the kinds of guayule richest in rubber.

It is known that the first sugar beets contained only 8 per cent of sugar, while by selection they have obtained beets that yield 16 to 18 per cent. The same has been done with the potato for the production of starch, and a like result may be obtained for guayule.

Studies of this nature on the selection of guayule has been commenced at the Central Agricultural College.

The experiments, however, were not successful; the seed sown in the Botanical Garden of Berlin sprouted but "could not stand the hot, moist air of the greenhouse." The German East African Society wrote concerning the growth of guayule plants raised from seed furnished by the Colonial Economic Committee: "The growth is slow; do not know whether the damp climate or the soil is wrong; plants have three or four leaves, but look sickly."

The story of the American experiments is very different. The guayule cultivation experiments in Mexico were abandoned, not specifically because of failure, but because of unsettled conditions in that country, and the field of operations was transferred to the United States.

The present plantation is in an upland desert, at an altitude of 2,500 feet. Of the 9,000 acres, some 1,500 are already planted to seedlings. The plantation possess a huge cement irrigation system, the pipes for which are made on the grounds. It has a laboratory, greenhouses for seed experiments, bungalows for the officers, excellent quarters for the help, planting and cultavating machines, tractors, etc. The industry has a possible future of such importance that a brief view of the whole undertaking is given.

The Beginning of Cultivation Experiments

One must go back at least 10 years for the beginning of cultivation experiments. Of all the companies operating in Mexico, one was preeminent in product, processes, and in vast holdings of land. It was an American organization with ample capital and unusual administrative talent. To those in charge it was perfectly apparent that the time would come when the wild guayule fields would be exhausted and the business stop entirely or shut down until new plants matured. Whether regrowth could be induced or the shrub be raised from seed or cuttings none knew. Most of those who were asked concerning this were positive in their declarations that it could not profitably be cultivated. The actual head of the company, a man of broad vision, believed that with sufficient effort cultivation could be made successful, and under his direction the work was begun.

Preliminary Work of Mexico

The first step was the selection of a corps of chemists, botanists, plant physiologists, and experts in desert plants. The company drew men from agricultural colleges, desert laboratories, and experiment stations, arranging to send their notes and conclusions to these seats of botanical learning, receiving from them knowledge in return. This body of men, which was was added to from time to time, embraced such well-known names as Dr. Francis E. Lloyd, Dr. Theodore Whittlesey, Dr. J. E. Kirkwood, Prof. C. I. Hare, Prof. J. P. C. Southall, Dr. W. R. McCallum, and half a score of others.

These scientists took up the following subjects and exploited them thoroughly: Geographical and alitudinal distribution; climate, air, and soil temperatures; rainfall, soil, moisture, and relative humidity; analysis of soils and plants under all conditions; diseases; effects of drought, rain, and irrigation. Seeds, leaves, flowers stems, and roots were subjected to the closest scrutiny under a multiplicity of conditions and the results tabulated. In time their work begun in Mexico was transferred to the United States, notably to California and Arizona. Here were established laboratories and experimental plants and work on a commercial scale commenced. Prior to the actual planting for the commercial product however, the shrub was practically remade to meet the necessities in the case.

Difficulties in Obtaining Supply of Vital Seed

The seed of the guayule is very minute, and efforts to obtain it from the desert plant were very unsatisfactory. In the heads that should hold good seeds there will actually be found half-developed dried husks of seeds and very few good ones. As vital seed and plenty of it is essential, the guayule trainers planted the shrub under varying conditions, fed, watered, starved, and petted it, until they learned positively just what conditions were necessary to full seed pods. In time the barren seed vessels became full ones and the treatment necessary to get this result became a matter of record.

It may not be generally known, but the seeds of some plants, seeds that are vital and that should germinate without difficulty, refuse to do so. This seems particularly true of desert plants. For example, there is a certain cactus, distributed very generally throughout the southwest, that bears seeds in abundance. So far, however, no one has been able to get these seeds to germinate. It was not thought that guayule was of this class; it promised so many other disabilities that it did not seem possible that it had this also. Nevertheless, when the first bushel of seeds were carefully sown, not one germinated. And so it was with the succeeding lots. There was nothing to do but sow smaller lots under every condition that could be thought of and learn just what was required. For a long time only failure resulted. Then an accident pointed the way and this problem was solved.

Speeding Up the Growth

The problem of speeding up the growth of the plant was one of the most interesting and vexing of all. Left to itself in its desert home under normal conditions a guayule seeding takes some 15 years to arrive at maturity; that is, to attain a size suitable for rubber extraction. It grows only a little at a favorable season each year. The rest of the time it remains dormant. Now, it is exceedingly difficult to get a tree, shrub, or plant to do anything that its forebears have not previously done. It may be said that they are hidebound in their prejudices, rockribbed as to their habits; they have no ambition to speed up, to be efficient, and to be different. These plant prejudices and habits may be broken up by coaxing, cajoling, and fooling. For example, the guayule habit of a slight growth in the spring once a year was noted by a plant physiologist, who took advantage of it in this way: He furnished a simulated spring and the guayule responded; then before it settled back for its months of rest, another spring was simulated. Again and again was this done, and the plant attained a lusty growth in record time. By this method the development that under natural conditions had taken 15 years was accomplished in 4 years. This, by the way, beats first-crop Hevea by two years.

Study and Classification of Varieties of Shrub

One of the most interesting preliminaries in guayule cultivation was the study of the varieties. To the average guayule expert there are but two types of plants, the *Parthenium argentatum*, which is the rubber producer, and the mariola, or *Parthenium icanum*, which much resembles it, but contains no rubber. From the beginning the botanists began to segregate the rubber-producing species into types. Dr. McCallum, in whose desert laboratory the most of this work was done, published a statement in Science, long ago, that he had found 125 different varieties. He told the writer that his records now show more than 900 types, and that the list is still growing.

Quantity and Quality of the Rubber Content

From the beginning of the experiments much care was taken in the analysis of the shrubs in order to learn as much as possible concerning the rubber content. First, the portions of the plant containing the rubber were catalogued. This was important in determining whether it was wiser to uproot the plant for the sake of the rubber in the roots, or to cut it off above the roots, leaving them to produce new growths. With cultivation in sight, however, there was much more to be learned than the portion of the plant richest in rubber —that was, whether the 10 per cent of rubber, the rough estimate of the whole rubber content, was at all variable. The analyses gave results so astounding that they were repeated several times. The investigations showed that there were wide differences in the amount of rubber in the different shrubs. This ran from 1 per cent to 20 per cent and in rare cases to 27 per cent. Plants of the poorer quality were thrown out and plants that were big rubber producers were selected as seed bearers for the future cultivated shrubs.

Guayule rubber has not been considered of the highest grade. When it first came upon the market, the resin content was so high and it was so soft that it was accepted with reluctance. Certain importers for years refused to allow that it was rubber at all and scornfully dubbed it a substitute. In time, however, by new methods of extraction and by deresination, it was recognized as a valuable crude rubber and was used by the million pounds.

The searchers of guayule secrets, when they began to test the quality of the rubber in the different plants, learned some more surprising truths. Some of the shrubs gave a black resinous paste that contained not enough rubber for extraction; others contained rubber with about 20 per cent of resin—the type that the whole trade was familiar with; a few yielded a firm hard product, low in resin, and showing in a remarkable degree the "nerve" that is characteristic of the best crude rubber. As a result of this study, the best producers were selected as seed bearers for cultivated rubber. Nor was that all. By hybridization—that is, the crossing of the big producers with the best producers—plants were obtained that had the good qualities of each. Therefore, with the big producing and best producing seed stock the real cultivation of guayule was well on the way to success.

Solving the Labor Problem

In an age when almost everything is done by machinery, the growing of india rubber, particularly the tapping and the gathering, is handiwork entirely. Without large gangs of coolies the production of india rubber in any considerable amount seems impossible. With the cultivation and the collection of guayule rubber, however, machinery takes the place of men in almost every part of the work. The preparation of the fields is done by disk harrows, drawn by tractors. The planting is done by specially built machines, similar to tobacco planters, that plow four furrows, set the plants at the proper intervals, cover them, and pack the earth about the roots. One machine plants 18 acres a day. The cultivating is also done by machinery. For gathering there are two systems: One consists in cutting the rows down by a harvesting machine; the other in plowing the plant out root and all as in the harvesting of sugar beets. The extraction of rubber is wholly mechanical. If the rubber is deresinated, that also is done by a mechanical process.

Guayule growing on a large plantation involves a laboratory for examining and testing plant and product, a small greenhouse for seed experiment and hybridization, seed beds protected by wind breaks, an irrigation system, planting and harvesting machinery, and an extraction plant; but above all, it requires a knowledge of the plant and plenty of capital.

Huertistas Refused Entrance to Chamber of Deputies

BY AN overwhelming majority, the National Chamber of Deputies adopted a resolution excluding from possible membership in that body the following classes who took part in the "Huerta treason" against Constitutional Government and which culminated in the deposition and assassination of President Madero and Vice-President Pino Suarez:

Secretaries, sub-secretaries or chief officers of any of the national departments of government.

Governors of States, the Federal District, or their private secretaries.

Secretaries of State Governments or of the Federal District.

Deputies and Senators elected during the period of usurpation.

The Attorney General of the Republic and agents of the Public Federal Ministries.

Magistrates of the Supreme Court and Judges of the First Instance in the States.

District Judges and other judicial authorities.

Generals, colonels and naval commanders.

Jefe Politicos.

Officials of whatever character who participated in the military mutinies of Vera Cruz and of the Citadel in Mexico City.

The Director General of Police of the Federal District and of the States.

The Directors of the Postoffice and of the Telegraph service.

The administrators of custom houses and of stamp-tax offices.

The directors, proprietors and managers of the semi-official publications of the usurpation period.

And all others who committed acts of any kind which showed their co-operation with those guilty of the military mutiny and the usurpation.

The Shrimp Industry

How It is Carried on in the State of Mazatlan—Capable of Large Extension

THERE are some 40 or 50 shrimp fisheries along the Pacific shore line within this consular district, with the trading center of the industry at Mazatlan. Most of the shrimp are collected during the rainy season—from July to November—in numerous shallow lagoons along the seashore. They are brought in from the adjacent waters of the Pacific Ocean by the currents. It often happens that there are large areas of the sea literally filled with them.

How the Shrimp are Caught

All lagoons utilized in catching the shrimp are traversed at the inlet by a dam with two rows of light piling about 4 feet apart filled in with enough fine brush to prevent the shrimp passing through. Depending upon the length of the dam, one or more traps of the ordinary style of lobster trap are located at convenient intervals for allowing the shrimp to enter the lagoon and at the same time for catching them when the fishermen are ready to take them from the water. When they first enter the lagoons from the sea they are usually small, although in some seasons they are large enough for immediate use.

The lagoons produce a weed or grass that grows from the bottom and is known locally as paiste. Immediately upon entering the lagoons the shrimp begin feeding upon this weed so that in seasonable years the average length of the shrimp increases to about 4½ inches.

Unlike the ordinary species of fish, shrimp move with the currents of water in which they are found. Therefore the fishermen watch for the rising of the tide to open the entrances through the dams and the falling of the same to close them.

When the shrimp have reached full growth in the lagoons the fishermen set their traps and again utilize the force of the tide, this time the outgoing one, in making the catch. At each trap, if there are men enough, one man uses a sort of basket fastened to the end of a pole with which to dip the shrimp from the trap and deposit them in a canoe. Generally several canoe loads are taken to camp by each man at each tide, making it possible for a few men to gather several tons in a day.

Many of the smaller operators in the shrimp industry catch with nets ranging from 100 to 400 feet in length, either in the lagoons or in shallow water along the open seashore.

When the shrimp season is good, as is usually the case, it is not uncommon for 10 men to catch 20 tons of shrimp in a period of eight hours, using the hand nets. Of course this success can be attained only on such occasional days as the shrimp happen to drift within the scope of operations.

Different Methods of Preserving—American Plant to Increase Its Output

The shrimp industry in this district provides three forms of the preserved product for the trade, namely: (*a*) Mexican shrimp which is salt-dried and so called because it is produced principally by Mexican fishermen and used almost exclusively in the Mexican trade. It is packed in mat bags with the head and shell on and is first in importance among the three products. (*b*) China shrimp, which is cooked with a little salt and then dried with the head and shell removed. It was so named because it is produced by the Chinese to some extent and is prepared for the use of the Chinese in Mexico, the United States, and even in China. China shrimp is second in importance. (*c*) Canned shrimp, which is prepared for the market in the United States at a few small canneries located at points adjacent to the fisheries. All of the canning factories are operated by Americans.

One American concern that has been in the shrimp-canning business during the past three or four years, having a plant with a daily capacity of 5,000 cans, is taking steps to reorganize for the purpose of increasing its output to about 20,000 cans daily. It will install can-closing machinery. The closing of shrimp cans in the past has been done by hand.

Difficulties Attending the Business

The shrimp industry in this district, however, is not carried on without some difficulties. The foreigner can not succeed unless he has a good command of the Spanish language, a good knowledge of local conditions affecting the business, and plenty of capital with which to work. Catches will be lost if exposed to heavy rains during the process of drying in the case of Mexican or China shrimp, or before the canned shrimp are put up unless some method of covering is employed at a heavy cost. Another difficulty is the matter of gauging the number of laborers necessary to the success of the season or of the particular catch, as several thousand dollars may be lost in shrimp over night due to insufficient help.

The shrimp industry appears to be in its infancy, and is conducted on a small scale in this section of Mexico, handling only about 10 per cent of the available supply.

Work on the new railway connecting Morelia, capital of the State of Michoacan, with Pugarabato and other remote portions of the State, is well under way, and communication will shortly be opened. Michoacan is a rich agricultural and timber region and the construction of this road will open new districts to development.

Carlos Castro Morales, recently elected Governor of Yucatan, will take office on February 1, 1918. He has been closely associated with General Alvarado, and will continue the policies inaugurated by that official, and which have done so much to ameliorate the condition of the working classes of that State.

A large amount of machinery has been purchased by the Government for the manufacture of clothes and military supplies of all kinds. It will be installed in the national factories as soon as received.

NEWS BREVITIES

Arrangements are being made for reopening the old mint at Culiacan, capital of the State of Sinaloa, which has been closed for some time. Mints are also being established at Hermosillo, capital of the State of Sonora, and at Mazatlan, in Sinaloa. A large amount of bullion is produced in that section, but the distance and the difficulty of transportation prevent it from being coined in the mint located in the National Capital.

It is expected that important results will follow the development of the petroleum deposits known to exist beneath the waters of the Gulf of Mexico in the Tuxpam and Panuco region, but work for their exploitation by private parties has been suspended until such time as the Government can complete the necessary preliminary surveys and examinations.

Steps are being taken for the return to the private company owning them of the electric railway system of Mexico City and its suburbs, which has been operated by the Government for an extended period. It is expected the lines will be transferred by the first of the coming year.

A large shipment of tractors and other agricultural machinery purchased by Secretary Rouaix, of the Department of Fomento, during his recent visit to the United States, is expected to reach here shortly. The machines will be distributed in those sections where the most advantageous use can be made of them.

A new petroleum well with a capacity of 30,000 barrels daily is reported to have been brought in at Tantoyucan, in the State of Vera Cruz. It is believed the well will show an increased yield when fully developed. The oil is said to be of superior quality and to possess a paraffin base instead of the usual one of asphalt.

A wireless telegraph station was recently opened at Pungarabato, in the State of Guerrero, and communication thus opened with the stations at Chapultepec, Acapulco and other remote points in the Republic which are difficult of access in any other manner.

The Chancellery of the Department of Foreign Relations, in reply to numerous queries upon the subject, has issued notice that foreigners who are members of any society or company of Mexican organization, are exempt from the provision of the constitution requiring all foreigners desiring to become possessed of real property in the Republic to renounce any right of appeal to their home government so far as that particular property is concerned.

Announcement is made that the market price of petroleum has increased 150 per cent within a brief period and that Tuxpam oil is now worth $9 American gold per ton (seven barrels) owing to the unprecedented demand. It is expected that the price will go even higher than present figures.

A course of industrial instruction for adult working women has been opened in the Commercial School of this city under the direction of the director of the University.

The Governor of the State of Zacatecas has reported to the national authorities that he has subdivided and allotted to applicants forty thousand acres of land situated in the district of San Marcos. The total amount of municipal lands in that district is 144,375 acres.

It is estimated that the States of Vera Cruz, Tamaulipas, Aguascalientes and Chiapas produced a total summer crop of corn approximating 300,000,000 pounds in weight. The introduction of much of this into Mexico City has resulted in the reduction of its retail price from about 7 1/3 cents per pound in American gold to less than half as much.

Importance of the Peanut Industry

A Crop Which Could Be Produced Upon An Equally Large Scale in Mexico

NOT only as a farm crop throughout the immense territory of southern United States, but also as a food for human beings, a feed for livestock, and a source of an industrial material adapted to a wide variety of uses especially now during war times, the peanut is the subject of one of the most remarkable tales of increased popularity and importance that can be found in the history of American agriculture.

As late as 1909 the total area planted to this crop was less than 900,000 acres. In 1916, it had increased to approximately 1,000,000 acres; the following year recorded the addition of a full million acres more; and indications at this time make it appear certain that fully 4,000,000 acres will be harvested this fall and yield a crop worth not less than $150,000,000.

For the real beginnings of the peanut industry of the United States, one must go back to the years following the Civil War (or between 1865 and 1870) when a merchant of the state of Virginia perceived the foundation of a new and profitable business hidden behind the retail sale of the pleasantly flavored but little known nut. From this simple beginning the crop has risen to a position of nation wide and even world wide importance based on at least seven different uses to which it is now put.

These are the uses of the roasted nuts by themselves and in various confections; the use of flour made from them, the use of oil obtained from them, the use of the cake or by-product obtained in extracting the oil, the use of the crushed nuts as butter, the use of the combined nuts and green parts of the plant as hog feed, the use of the plants themselves cured as hay for cattle or other stock, and, finally, the use of the crop as a soil builder—this quality hinging upon the fact that the peanut is one of that group of nitrogen-gathering plants called legumes.

With a good yield averaging about 60 bushels of nuts and from 1 to 1½ tons of hay per acre, the crop of the United States in 1917 was practically 60,000,000 bushels of nuts with shells, or 20,000,000 bushels of shelled nuts. However the peanut oil yield of 26,000 gallons used slightly more than one third of these, although it was insufficient to meet the needs of the country as the import figures of k, 474,123 gallons in 1916 and 3,026,188 gallons in 1917 prove. The best grades of this oil are somewhat better for table use and cooking than cottonseed oil, and not quite as good as olive oil, but in view of the present shortages of and demands for oils and fats, they are of the utmost importance. Not only is this product used in the making of cosmetics, soap, medical emulsions, kid gloves, silks, oilcloth, paint bases, artificial leather and other industrial materials, but also it has recently been utilized by the Government in making high explosives to an extent, and with a success, that promise a greatly increased demand for this purpose.

The ground nuts produce an excellent flour for human consumption, and various grades of meal which may or may not contain the hulls, all of which make a rich and efficient cattle and hog feed. Because of the compactness and versatile usefulness of peanut butter, this is one of the most popular forms in which the nut is used; of the crop of 1917 probably 4,000,000 bushels of the best nuts were ground to produce some 7,000,000 pounds of butter.

Even the hulls themselves, dicarded in the making of the more refined products, are turned to account. Often they are ground to make hog feed; and in other cases they are specially prepared and used in polishing tin plate; if unavailable even for this, they are turned into fertilizer or some form of fuel. This was formerly also the fate of the pressed cake remaining when the oil is extracted, but at present this material, rich in food value although greatly reduced in fat content, is either ground and bolted to serve as flour substitute, or fed unchanged to live-stock.

Peanut hay is one of the most nutritious and inexpensive of forages and this year will reach the people and the armies of this nation and the allied nations in the form of thousands of hog and cattle carcasses. The estimated yield in 1917 was 1,333,000 tons with a value of approximately $20,000,000. With the development of new, labor saving machines and improved, efficient, economical methods for handling the crops, many of which are just emerging from the experimental stage into that of practical usefulness, its yield, its use, and the definite benefits accruing to the farmers of this country and the peoples in whose interests they are working, are all expected to undergo still greater and more significant growth.

The newly constructed railway between Canitas, on the old Mexican Central line in the State of Zacatecas, and the city of Durango, has been completed and turned over to the Government. A special commission has been appointed to receive it and it will be opened for the use of the public with appropriate ceremonies. It is confidently expected that the section traversed by the new line will enter upon a period of substantial development, as the resources it possesses are varied and extensive.

The local officials of the city of Puebla are taking active steps for the maintenance of the good reputation of that place as the cleanest city in the Republic. Merida, the capital of Yucatan, is proud of its reputation as a "Spotless Town," but Puebla long since gained her present repute in this respect and is determined to maintain it against all comers.

For the first ten days of the month of April the Constitutionalist Railways turned over to the National Treasury over $200,000, the surplus after salaries and other costs of operation were defrayed.

Deposits of Rock Crystal

By the merest chance rich deposits of rock crystal have been discovered in the mountains of Escalerillo, situated to the west of San Luis Potosi. Some freighters who were bringing charcoal to the city in passing this mountain found stones which shone with surprising brilliancy in the rays of the run. They picked up several pieces with the intention of taking them as curiosities to San Luis.

In passing through Morales, where the reduction plant of the Compania Metalurgica Mexicana, a branch of the American smelting and Refining Company, is situated, one of the American assayers learned that these men had some rare stones, and wishing to know what they were, hunted them up and for a few pesos bought them. After carefully analyzing them he was convinced that they were rock crystal of an excellent quality and of great value. Without loss of time he went in search of the freighters to learn where they had found these samples and by offering a small sum of money he not only got the desired information but persuaded them to guide him to the spot where they had discovered the deposit. After a careful examination the assayer was convinced that the rock crystal existed in great abundance and was of inestimable value.

Greatly pleased to have found such a rich prospect he proposed to some of his friends to form a company for the purpose of obtaining a concession to exploit these deposits. The first steps have been taken and as soon as the concession is granted they will begin their work of exploration and development.

In order to set at rest certain rumors, it has been officially announced that the entire railway system of the Republic is abundantly supplied with both coal and oil for the operation of all trains and shops, and that sufficient is on hand to supply all demands for many months to come.

The National Department of Health has issued stringent orders that all remedies or concoctions of a medical character sold in bottles or boxes must contain on their outside the complete formula of their constituents. It has also been ordered that all bottles containing beverages for human consumption must be provided with metallic capsules as coverings in place of cork or other substances.

Owing to the increased and constant demand for rubber because of the European war, the companies engaged in the production of guayule rubber in Mexico have resumed operations. These concerns are located in Northern Mexico, where the plant which yields this kind of rubber is solely found, and they give employment to thousands, both in the factories and in the desert regions where the shrub is gathered and baled for transportation to the reduction establishments.

As to conditions in Sonora, Mexico, the *Oasis*, of Nogales, Arizona, declares that contrary to many false reports that find circulation, business of all kinds is going on as usual in all portions of the State, mines long suspended have resumed operations, large areas of land are being brought under cultivation, great crops of all kinds are being harvested and moved, hundreds of carloads of garbanzos, tomatoes and other products are being brought into the United States, money in large amounts is taken into the country and carried from place to place without hold-ups, robberies or violence.

Cultivation of Corn

Interesting Facts About the Great Cereal and the Development of Its Use by Mankind

BY PROFESSOR ZEFERINO DOMINGUEZ

TROPICAL AMERICA was the cradle of corn, where it had been cultivated extensively for many years at the time of the discovery of the New World. It probably took its name from a forage plant called by the Mexicans "Teozini."

On his return to Spain, Columbus carried with him some of the seed, which was planted the following year. From Spain it was carried into France and Italy, and from Italy to Switzerland, Austria-Hungary and Portugal. From this country it was sent to Asia.

In the year 1650 about 600 bushels were exported to Europe, and in 1770 the quantity exported increased to about 13,500 bushels. From this date its development was rapid, reaching in 1880 more than two million bushels.

The population and riches of the United States have increased to such an extent that this important cereal has been introduced throughout the entire country, so that today there are 108,771,000 acres given over to its cultivation, with a production of 2,772,376,000 bushels.

If this branch of agriculture, representing so great a part of the national wealth, has such significance for the United States, how much greater is it for Mexico, since it constitutes the food of 90 per cent of the people.

All the problems of Mexico depend on this crop—political, economical and moral. If the crops are good the farmer is in condition to meet his obligations, to pay off the mortgage, or better to put money in bank and to buy all the necessities for his farm and cotton cloth for his laborers. As is well known, the manufacture of cotton cloth is an industry that gives employment to thousands of workmen and represents millions of dollars. The railroads profit by increased traffic, wages are higher and taxes more easily paid. Moreover, corn has another important influence. The peones of the tropics and semi-tropics have in it their necessary food, and thus it is that the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco, rubber and jute, as well as wheat, barley, pulque, fruits and the raising of cattle, are entirely subordinate to corn production.

The value of corn used in making tortillas is $160,000,000 annually, and the number of women employed in this industry is about one million. At 50 cents as a minimum daily wage for each of these women, the manufacture of tortillas costs $182,000,000. Uniting these two items, the cost of the national food is the respectable sum of $342,500,000, approximately a million pesos daily.

The scarcity of corn is one of the causes, if not the only one, of the present conflict in Mexico. When the crops fail, the Government is obliged to import corn to feed the people, for it is well known that hunger is one of the incentives for revolutions and general disturbances.

The human body and mind have an intimate relation with food. In many places in Mexico the inhabitants live on tortillas alone. If the corn is poor in quality, lacking in oil, protein and carbohydrates, it has little food value and the consequences are debility and degeneration of the race. Tuberculosis and other sicknesses make ravages among a people who subsist on food lacking nutritive value. This is the cause of lack of nourishment and energy of our people.

About two million inhabitants of Mexico live on corn. Allowing, as the least quantity of food to sustain life, one kilo per day, we have this result: That Mexico needs three million hectoliters to support its population, without counting the many industries that use this cereal as their base. The production of corn is in normal times only thirty million hectoliters, and from this arises the necessity for importing enormous quantities yearly to meet the national consumption. This is the root of our economical distress.

The wealth of a nation is reckoned by what its soil produces. A nation that buys grain from a foreign country to feed its people is far from enjoying economical advantages; in other words, it is bankrupt. But if the production exceeds internal consumption, this excess is the guarantee for the money that furnishes the government revenue. The key of the situation is in the hands of the farmer and not in the Government offices.

The most important problem that the Government has to solve is the agricultural one. Allied with it is an enduring peace which will give us prosperity and independence. Because of the agricultural problem being intimately linked with the production of corn is the reason I have given such importance to its cultivation.

The potential capacity of Mexico to produce this cereal is enormous if modern and adequate methods are employed. In my trips of inspection across the Republic I have seen States so fertile that one alone of these could produce sufficient corn for the maintenance of the nation.

An American company which is interested in the development of agricultural lands in the State of Sonora has submitted a proposition to the Department of Fomento for the construction of a dam and reservoir in the Yaqui River valley with a capacity of two billions of liters of water, which will be devoted to the irrigation of a tract of some five million acres of fertile land in that section. If the project is approved, construction will commence at once.

A careful census of the Chinese population in lower California and the States of Sinaloa and Sonora has been directed, in order that the information may be utilized in drawing up a new immigration law that is now under consideration. The localities named are the centers of Mongolian immigration in the Republic.

Rabbits Becoming Valuable

A ten acre farm from which 700 rabbits are marketed each month, is a good illustration of the increased interest being taken in the raising of these domesticate animals as a source of meat.

This monthly production is the increase from about 1,000 head of Flemish and New Zealand stock, and is sold at an average price of 15 cents a pound at the farm. The rabbits are marketed at an average weight of 31/2 pounds.

About the only cost outlay involved is a dollar a day per each 1,000 rabbits fed, for grain. All the green food required—and this furnishes the bulk of their ration—is provided by a 5-acre field of alfalfa, and the space between the trees of a small orchard that occupies the space not given up to buildings, etc.

The wild rabbit of the United States is also being utilized in greatly increased numbers, both for its meat and for its fur which is used by hat manufacturers. It is estimated that 200,000,000 rabbits are trapped or shot in the United States each year, and supply approximately 250,000 tons of valuable food.

The game commission of the state of Pennsylvania estimates that three and a half million rabbits were killed there during the 45 day open hunting season of 1917. In Kansas, a firm reports that during the winter of 1917 it dressed and shipped 157,000 rabbits or 275 tons of meat, and saved and marketed every skin.

From a fur standpoint, the larger Jack rabbit is worth from 18 to 20 cents; the pelt of the smaller native cottontail is worth 10 to 12 cents. On this basis the total value of the pelts of the annual rabbit catch of the country is about $20,000,000.

Several applications have been received from young ladies to be permitted to receive instruction in aviation at the National School of Aeronautics conducted under the auspices of the War Department. They have, however, been refused.

Under the direction of the Bureau of Climatology and Geography, a new and complete map is being made of the Republic of Mexico, which will shortly be available for distribution. Such a map is very greatly needed, in order that conditions may be brought down to date.

Instruction in modern agricultural methods is being given throughout the country by means of moving-picture films and much good is being done in this manner.

Under the supervision of Governor Pascual Ortiz Rubio, of the State of Michoacan, fifteen new schools have recently been opened in various localities, several of which are for adults of both sexes. An agricultural school has also been established with modern equipment.

The Department of Communications and Public Works has commenced work upon the reconstruction of the wharves at Puerto Carmen, in the State of Campeche, which had fallen into disrepair during the Revolution. A large amount of commerce is transacted at that point and it will be materially increased by the improved shipping facilities.

The police of Mexico City have commenced an active campaign against the introduction and use of opium and numerous arrests have been made. The Chinese are the most active in this illegal traffic and quantities of the drug have been seized.

How Mexico is Progressing

Notes of Interest Regarding Finance, Commerce and Internal Improvement

PRESIDENT CARRANZA'S message to Congress upon its upon, September 1st, gave the following summary of the financial resources of the National Government for the nine months from September 1, 1917, to May 31, 1918:

Custom-house:	
Import taxes	$22,600.000
Export taxes	7,800.000
Other sources	3,000,000
Stamp Taxes:	
Petroleum	8,900.000
Metals	7,500.000
Other sources	45,300.000
Collected by Consuls	3,200.000
Postoffice surplus	3,000.000
Telegraph surplus	2,000.000
National property and interventions	1,600,000
Receipts from various other sources	690.000
Total for 9 months	$102,590,000

At the same ratio the receipts for the year would amount to $137,000,000. The receipts from the various ayuntamientos of the Federal District are estimated at $12,000,000, bringing the total annual income to $149,000,000, as compared with $105,000,000 for the fiscal year 1911-1912.

According to the expenses for the month of July, the total for the year will be $155,000,000, but this includes the sum of $12,000,000 due employes on salary account. An economy of $30,000,000 has also been effected in the estimates allowed by Congress for the year.

Yaquis Offer to Surrender

Information has been received from Sonora that that portion of the Yaqui tribe known as "Broncos" and which has engaged in desultory hostilities at various times, while the greater portion of the tribe has either been in the army or occupied with peaceful pursuits, has at last concluded to follow the example of their fellows and lay down their arms. In recent encounters with the Government troops the "Broncos" have suffered severely and are now willing to make peace. Chief Matus, one of their principal leaders, lost his life in the last battle, and this had not a little to do with their discouragement. The only terms that will be accepted by the Government are unconditional surrender, it is announced.

Henry Ford's Factory Plans

A corps of expert engineers who have been intrusted with the preliminary investigation needed for carrying out the offer of Henry Ford to establish various tractor manufactories at several points in the Republic is now in this country. Included in the party are several engineers who have been employed in this country and who have knowledge of the resources and capabilities of the points that have been suggested. At the present time it is understood that Mr. Ford will confine his operations to the establishment of three plants at different points. It is believed that the cities of Monterrey and Durango will be the two first selected and that the third will be at some point in either Michoacan or Jalisco. In the first-named city all the essentials are to be found in the way of railway communication, coal, oil, labor supply, etc. After making a thorough study of the various points suggested, the visiting engineers will return to Detroit and report to Mr. Ford before any further steps are taken.

Some Retail Food Prices

Retail food prices in Mexico City, according to the market reports published in the press, are as follows for various of the prime necessities. The figures given are in American gold at the equivalent of $2 Mexican gold for $1 American gold, the actual exchange rate, however, being less: Rice, 12½ cents per pound; granulated sugar, 18 2/3 cents; coffee (green), 12 cents; dried meat, 24 cents; fresh meat, 13¾ to 16 cents; beans, 8¾ cents; garbanzas, 8½ cents; flour, 12 2/3 cents; corn, 9 9/10 cents; lard, 44 cents; potatoes, 3½ cents; brown loaf sugar, 13¾ cents.

Proposed Church Tax

The tax law that has been introduced into the Chamber of Deputies calls for an annual taxation of 2 per cent of the value of all churches used for religious purposes. It is expected that more than three million dollars will be raised annually from this source, while the tax is not regarded as onerous. Official estimates show that in the Federal District 65 per cent of the total population are Catholics, 10 per cent belong to various other religious sects, and the remaining 25 per cent are indifferent.

Closely Guarding the Frontier

Aurelio Cardenas, Chief Administrator of Customs for the section tributary to Juarez, Chihuahua, has completely reorganized the border guard, with the view of suppressing the traffic in arms, munitions, and other contraband articles, which has been going on in certain localities. At the same time, greater vigilance will be exercised to put an end to the traffic in stolen stock from both side of the line.

Paper Produced in Mexico

El Universal, a prominent daily paper of Mexico City, states that the average consumption of paper by the various periodicals published there is 250 tons per month, most of it in rolls for rotary presses. There are three paper factories now in operation in the Republic, as follows: San Rafael, producing a maximum of 150 tons per month; Loreto, 125 tons per month; Peña Pobre, 100 tons per month. This production includes all classes of paper, and not solely that used for newspapers.

International Labor Conference

The Governors of the States on both sides of the line between the two countries have signified their intention to take part in the international labor conference proposed by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labor, to be held at Laredo. Texas, on November 13th prox. Governor Cantu, of the Territory of Lower California, has also accepted an invitation to participate in the meeting. It had been hoped that the Presidents of the two Republics might meet at the same time and place, and this question is still in abeyance. Great efforts are being made to bring about such a meeting.

Internal Revenue From Various Sources

The report of the internal revenue or stamp-tax office shows that during the year from July 1, 1917, to June 30, 1918, there was a total of $75,496,360.75 collected from various sources. Included in this amount was $2,203.353.90 from general mining taxes, $10,003,225.52 from metals exported, $4,047,532.27 from alcohol and liquors, $2,304,050.17 from textile fabrics and threads, $2,330,584.53 from imported wines, beer and other alcoholic beverages, $800,743.34 from electric light and power, $201,055.51 from telephones, $900,164.93 from sealed bottles containing various liquids, $286,842.98 from matches, $93,638.42 from tax on advertising, $479,295.75 from pulque, $7,955,113.85 from petroleum, $23,449.10 from patents, trade marks, etc.; $357,577.51 from inheritance taxes, $92,301.50 from loans, $27,545,389.92 from Federal contributions, and $14,376,216.84 from taxes on documents, etc.

One Year's Receipts

The total receipts of the Constitutionalist Railways, as the National Railways of Mexico have been known during and since the Revolution, for the year between September 1, 1917, and September 1, 1918, were $72,000,000. These receipts do not represent solely commercial business, but include military traffic and commissions on behalf of the Government. But even with this deduction there is a considerable margin in favor of the lines.

Orders have been issued by the President that hereafter no special trains shall be run for any person, no matter what his official, military or other status. Other regulations have also been promulgated for increasing the efficiency of the lines.

Requests have been received from many portions of the Republic for increased railway service to meet the demands of the resumption of industrial activity.

Railway Improvements

The equipment of the Constitutionalist Railways has recently been increased by the addition of several Pullman cars, which were purchased in the United States at a cost of $20,000 Mexican gold each.

Three sleeping cars of the Pullman type were recently completed in the railway shops in Mexico City and have been added to the number now in use.

The construction of the new railway line

(Continued on page 39)

From a Pullman Window

Impressions of a Journey Through the United States—
A Vision of Washington

(Translated from the "Universal Ilustrado" of Mexico City.)

IT WAS about noon when before our eyes appeared the gigantic dome of the Capitol. At first we thought we saw it at the end of a street. Afterward it appeared immediately over a group of buildings. There was a moment when we believed we had it so near that it could be reached by extending the hand. Oh, illusion—only illusion! It happens with this kind of Cyclopic construction that they not only make the character of the cities they are in, but they also dominate over them, crush them, absorb them, and are somewhat akin to a Bluebeard—always on guard, jealous of the slave. The Capitol was everywhere and nowhere!

The train enters into a subway. Minutes after it stops. We are in the Union Station. We jump to the sidewalk. And here I stand, pen in hand. It is a question of putting in brief terms and in a short chapter the impressions received by me in my four days at Washington; of giving you in a few dozens of lines the entire vision of a city—to give the essence and only the essence, the number of notes taken from nature—now in a garden, now on the porch of a palace, then from the step of an automobile, or at the corner of a street where an enigmatic, unknown crowd passes by.

Let us try it!

Washington is not a city—it is a beautiful garden. In cities all is walls, houses and more houses. But here the trees are the whole. It may be said that in foliage are dissolved the walls and houses. The trees cover with their green color all the perspectives. Between the trees the monuments disclose themselves. The trees are found on every hand. They are treated with care—are coaxed, loved in such a manner that to the foreigner at first sight all avenues are but one—umbrageous, repeated infinitely, all in symmetric order.

Now and then the trees appear as if they had separated themselves from the streets and formed a vast mass. They indulge in an extended dialogue and boast of their fortunate condition. So it is at Rock Creek, the ample park outlined and made possible through the initiative of Roosevelt. One evening I went there and can synthesize in simple formula the reiterated impressions that the trees of the innumerable woods gave me that were seen in the South while going from New Orleans to Washington and which were like the trees of this very city. And the formula is this—the uniform soft green. Do not search here in springtime for the plentifulness, the richness, the joyfulness of the different tints of green that are seen in Mexico. It is a tender green, transparent, one that extends and prolongs and that at first sight seduces like the eyes of the Naiads of which Bergner tells us—that unforgettable poet—in the years of his adolescence. At the end it brings a sort of fatigue, by reason of the intensity and uniformity that prevail mainly in the parks. You note it, as is natural, because of the absence of flowers.

Let us not talk here of flowers. I have seen them! And the handsomest, you may be sure! But they were in the show windows—elegant, almost sumptuous—exhibited as a jeweler exhibits the rarest diamonds, the most blood-red rubies, iris-like pearls, topazes, amethysts. The flowers here are a product of the greenhouse and conservatory. Those roses—American Beauties; those gladioluses, those chrysanthemums, and those myosotis that my eyes admired behind the glass in a florist's store on Pennsylvania Avenue shall not go to perfume the little parlor of a poor married couple, nor will they adorn the ivory-like bust of a modest bride through the affection and love of any subordinate clerk richer in sensibility than in yellow or white metal. They will instead be taken by the "smart set." They cost many dollars! Just imagine how many—remembering that the embassies in Washington have assigned to them annually amazingly large amounts of money for merely social affairs in the way of floral decorations alone.

But if there are no cheap flowers, there are in compensation many children and flocks of birds. Children are the kings of the parks. Everything there is for them. They rule over all, and you may see them, as I did, in Rock Creek Park, with their naked legs wading in the many small streams and shouting charmingly while splashing the crystal of the water. Notwithstanding they are smaller than the children, the birds are little kings as well. Little kings that are respected not only in the air but on the ground. Sparrows I have found even on the sidewalks among the hurrying throngs of people, jumping and hopping about.

Let us recognize this: The poetry of the American character is shown in four devotions—to women, to children, to trees, and to birds. These men, whom many people unjustly suppose to the rude; these men, who make millions; these men, who maintain the rails through immense deserts; who build up formidable industries, have in their spirit these four devotions, which honor them vastly and which not a few of us Latins would like to have for the better honor and embellishment of our common existence.

Washington is quiet and adorable, as an adorable and quiet provincial city. It gives us confidence. It gives us a pleasant sedative. If it were not for the official elegance ruling here, we should imagine that unexpectedly from one of these houses, pleasingly shaded by the trees, would emerge a gentleman in shirtwaist and slippers. It can be assured that here the Yankee character, according to the illustrations thereof commonly known, is not to be found. The ostentatious life of bustle and noise is not apparent in Washington, in any portion of the city. There are no forty-story buildings, no elevated railways, no subways. Even the stores have something—I know not what—that is familiar. The automobiles slide silently over the asphaltum along the wooded avenues. You may imagine that even the tramways only allow themselves a discreet noise of a diminished, agreeable tone.

It seems as though the thought of the founder of the city was to surround the resident government with an atmosphere of silence, of quietness, propitious to good government, to the equilibrial elaboration of the laws. And in this country, where the government seems to count for the utmost, and which accomplishes everything and develops and completes all the private initiation, the capital of the great republic, as I understand it, is not and never will be for the mob (mass). This city is one of those favorites, like Paris to the Parisians, like Mexico to ourselves, like New York for the same Americans. A New York gentleman (if not by birth, by sentiment) at the end of my Washington trip said to me, with a kind of tediousness and of profound weariness evident in his voice: "Oh, here in Washington everything is official—everything official." I can explain these words and the tone of the voice in men like this, who, without the ostentation of Dantons or Marats, are sincere lovers of democracy and expect nothing from the State, individually ask for nothing, and systematically reject the extravagant centralization and "State-ism" of Latin peoples.

Washington is a city of functionaries, of diplomats, of employes, and of millionaires. The former personages by obligation, the latter by pleasure, establish here their homes. Just on that account it will be understood that in such a small metropolis there could be found monuments of such splendor and value as the Capitol, the State Department, the Obelisk, the Pan-American Union, the Library of Congress, and others. Statues are abundant. You find them at the corner of almost any street. Some of them are dedicated to great civilians, prominent in the history of the United States, but a good many of them, notwithstanding, were erected to the memory of soldiers. The soldiers! When we think that they have not lost and will not lose their primacy, even among a people the most industrious and peaceful of the earth!

The great monuments, the isolated cyclopic constructions, do not disharmonize, as it might be supposed, with the general buildings inhabited by the common people. And such a miracle of harmony is due (who doubts it?) to the fact, on the one hand, that the best portion of the residences are embassies or belong to potentates of power and of money, and the remainder dissemble their modesty by the abundance of foliage and also (how could I say it?) to a general comfort and collective accommodation reflected even in the careful cleaning of the streets and in their perfect pavementation. During the daytime the animation, without being excessive, seems, without being hyperesthetic, let us say not perceptible but almost extreme. For you have to remember that in this place, where so many sinners' feet stand, resides one of the strongest and most powerful governments of the earth, not counting the now disintegrated and chaotic Russia, and counting even England with the vast dominion of her colonies.

At the doors of the ministries, around the White House, at the embassies, a multitude of people pass constantly. I think of the innumerable telegraph wires vibrating every moment with the voice of Washington. I think of the number of fates, fortunes, adversities and enterprises which are settled here. I think of this great country that, not counting the prodigious historic casualties, owes its greatness to its not less prodigious spirit of organization and discipline, and to some sort of formidable yet docile energy in reference to the national future and the inspiration of the guiding power that resides in the Garden City.

I must say, and all Mexicans must know, that here on United States territory such is the general sentiment of a moral uplift on account of the war that every citizen works for his country—from the poor newsboy who only in the hours left free from school pursues his modest task, and from his minute earnings invests no small portion in buying War Savings Stamps which represent a loan from him to the Government, to the great industrials and magnates of wealth; to the small farmers and merchants, who for instance as in New Orleans increased the potato production, raising it fifty per cent, and then had to increase, with personal loss to themselves, the standard price to the producers on these goods, so necessary for food for the army.

But let us continue the interrupted thread of our thought. The noise and bustle increase in the city at noon—the lunch time—and at six o'clock in the evening, the end of all labor though not of trouble. Then the spring-like avenues are full of people. In the gardens and parks these are surely the wives of ambassadors or of their first secretaries, with such haughty air! They are the stenographer or typewriter, smiling and coquettish; the clerk—the drygoods-store clerk; the employes, who pass by in a haste when the sun is hot, quietly and peacefully when the shades of evening fall. At these last hours life is concentrated on the spacious and attractive Pennsylvania Avenue, at the restaurants, in the cinematographs and theaters, and above all in the hotels.

"The hotels of the United States," a friend has told me who is connected with the Mexican Embassy, "are centers of sociability as well as of business—places of amusement and of rest." And this I confirm, going and coming out by the spacious halls of the renowned New Willard, or by the not less splendid Raleigh. A crowd, still more compact than the one that I saw in the New Orleans hotels on my way here, is always found therein. You feel the vertigo of the elevators. You listen to the musicians with their instruments. Beautiful and elegantly clad women pass in and out hastily. No dining room is empty. Numbers of gentlemen, sitting down or standing, talk or smoke. There is dancing in the different parlors. For you must know that dancing here is a daily practice—it is something like an institution. Even the patriotic airs, including "Joan of Arc," "Over There," etc., can be danced! And little old men I have seen, with white hair, with many years over their heads, who in dancing can compete with any fifteen-year-old boy.

Living, even as a temporary sojourner, in one of these caravansaries, you feel the sensation of the perpetual jollity. Where is the war? we ask ourselves. Where *is* the war?

Suddenly in a hall we lift up our eyes. We see a flag—an immense flag—striped with red on a white background, over which are attached innumerable blue stars. "The war is there," we answer to ourselves. Each of these stars represents a man, an employe or servant of the hotel, who has marched to the battlefield.

Meanwhile those who stay here await their turn quietly, and meanwhile they enjoy themselves. Not even in this beautiful city, nor in any of the other places which I have visited, does the thought of sacrifice and of death perturb for a moment the supreme harmony of life.

Coming out one night from the famous Congressional Library, in which I received the most stupendous impression that can be felt of the means there taken for the elevation of human genius in the effort to give knowledge and intelligence by perfect mechanical means, I traversed the great walk that extends in front of the Capitol. It was a Sunday and every rumor had ceased in the city. The marble giant was asleep. There it was, immensely white in the blue night, erected in the midst of circuits of light spread into torrents by the electric globes. Its arrogant dome broke the sky. The gallant colonnades of the lateral pavilions were obscured by the distance. It gave me, in the enormousness of the monument, the painful consciousness of my own insignificance. Suddenly my spirit went out of me and instinctively I raised myself to that manner of contemplation in which the abstract thought is higher than the great things—up to the very highest. The fate of war was torturing me—of the present war, that is. Nothing less than the moral breakdown of a civilization, which built up all the ideals here; of the present war, where two principles fight, of which one or the other shall decide the destinies of the world.

And the dome of the Capitol, in the peaceful June night, stood like a fantastic interrogation!

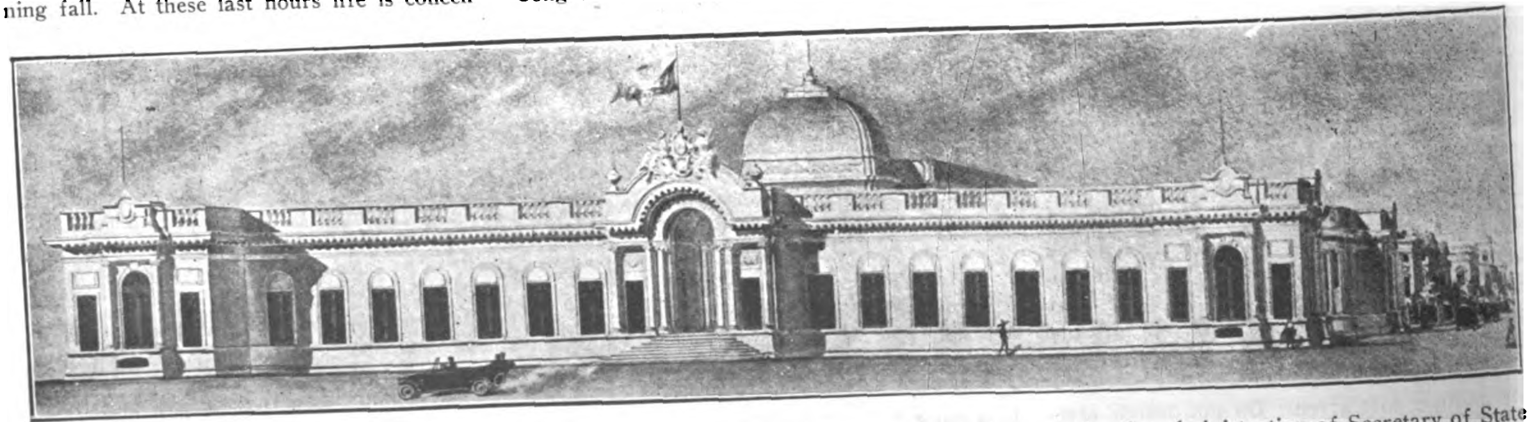
—CARLOS GONZALES PEÑA.

Development of Petroleum

It has just been announced that the New Zealand Government has paid one company the sum of $48,665 for the production of the first million gallons of petroleum, and was prepared to assist further in the development of the oil fields of this Dominion.

It has been estimated that one field on the west coast of the South Island contains not less than 38,000,000 gallons of crude petroleum that might be extracted from the shale of that part of the country.

Indications make it clear that there are other deposits that have not yet been investigated to any great extent, and the Government proposes to assist in this as soon as conditions become normal.—*Consular Reports.*



A Splendid Specimen of School Architecture

City of Guadalajara Opens Magnificent Structure for Public Education

THERE was recently opened with appropriate ceremonies in the city of Guadalajara, capital of the State of Jalisco, a magnificent school structure of which an illustration is given in this issue of THE REVIEW. This is known as the "Constitution School" and is well built of stone. It covers a superficial area of 4660 square meters and is provided with all modern educational as well as sanitary appliances. The corner stone was laid in September, 1914, by General Manuel Dieguez, but active construction dates from October, 1916, under the administration of Secretary of State Berlanga. Despite the straitened financial condition of the Government, the edifice was completed and on Independence Day (September 16th) was formally dedicated to public use with appropriate ceremonies.

A glance at the illustration demonstrates that this building is one of which any city in the world might well be proud.

HOW MEXICO IS PROGRESSING

(Continued from page 36)

from Guadalajara, capital of the State of Jalisco, to Chamela, a port on the Pacific coast, has been resumed with activity, work having been suspended for several months. It is intended to push it to early completion, thereby opening a rich agricultural and mineral region to better development.

Modern Agricultural Machinery

Secretary Pastor Rouaix, of the Department of Agriculture and Development, has organized a new bureau for the especial purpose of supplying the farmers of the Republic with agricultural machinery of the most modern pattern at cost in order to avoid speculation and the heavy expense of importation which formerly prevailed and which caused such articles to be very scarce. Besides providing machinery at cost, permanent exhibitions are to be maintained for the purpose of instructing the farmers in the use of the new devices, as also to demonstrate the results of such application. During his recent visit to the United States, Secretary Rouaix purchased a large quantity of the desired apparatus, and it will be ready for distribution early in November. Various points have been selected for the purpose and competent persons will be stationed there to give instrustions in their use. Motors, tractors and artesian well tools will be provided, as also all the machinery for plowing, planting, cultivating, harvesting and threshing grain and other crops.

Steamship Service to be Augmented

The mercantile and traveling public has been gratified to learn that within a short time the steamship service to gulf ports will be greatly increased. In addition to the two vessels operated by the principal line connecting with New York, six others are to be put on the route between Progreso, Vera Cruz, Tampico, Havana and New York. In various American ports there are several thousand tons of freight destined to Mexico that had accumulated during the embargo but which have been released and will now be forwarded to its destination. Return cargoes of henequen and other Mexican products are promised to be abundant.

Will Export Fifty Thousand Tons of Cotton

Announcement is made in the Mexico City daily press that under permission granted by the Treasury Department some 50,000 bales of cotton will be exported from this country to the United States, Japan and South America, where advantageous contracts have been made therefor. The price in this country is $32 gold per 100 pounds, while in the foreign market it is worth four or five dollars more.

In the Tampico Oil Region

One of the chiefs of brigade under General Lopez de Lara, who has been in charge of the campaign against Palaez in the Tampico-Vera Cruz petroleum region, has made the following statement in the press of Mexico City: It is now nearly three months since the Government dispatched a force of four thousand men under General Lopez de Lara to suppress the banditry in the petroleum region. The first advance was made against the "Juan Casiano" well, producing 250,000 barrels of oil daily, and which is the largest in the world. This was taken possession of without difficulty, and the Government troops next moved toward the "Potrero del Llano" well, with a capacity of 130,000 barrels daily. This was also recovered without difficulty. The "Cerro Azul," with a capacity of 110,000 barrels, was the next objective point, and this, like the others, was taken possession of without trouble of a serious character. After this Palaez, the bandit leader, retired to "Las Amarillas," a region where there are a few small wells and where it was announced he would make a last and determined stand. It was given out that he had six thousand men well armed, two batteries of cannon and thirty machine guns, with fortifications therefor. The Federal troops advanced with care, but found that Palaez had only a few hundred poorly organized men, with neither cannon nor machine guns, and that the fortifications consisted of a trench less than two feet deep and two hundred yards in length. In two hours the entire force was put to flight and Palaez, who was wounded, took refuge on a small sail boat and went to New Orleans for treatment. After his departure from the country his followers broke up into small bands, and not a single well now remains in their power. Trains are now operating regularly between Tampico and San Luis Potosi without escort and in perfect safety, according to the official quoted in the foregoing.

Moss as a Substitute for Absorbent Cotton

The Director of Biological Investigation of the Department of Agriculture and Development has received a number of communications from the State of Puebla regarding the feasibility of exploiting a species of tree moss that is found in abundance in that region and from which a product is made that takes the place of absorbent cotton, now so largely used in the European war for the treatment of the wounded. Moss of a similar variety is now used to the extent of upward of four million treatments each month, and it is believed that the local product can be utilized to great advantage.

From Chicago to Tampico by Auto

There recently passed through the city of Monterrey, capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, a party of three prominent oil promoters who had made the entire journey to that point from Chicago in an automobile. The recorded distance traversed was 2200 miles and the time consumed was three weeks. They only traveled by day and frequently made extended stops for rest and recreation. They met with no obstruction or delay after entering Mexico and expected to reach Tampico within two days after passing through Monterrey.

To Buy More Passenger Cars

Owing to the increase of traffic between Mexico City and border points, it has been found necessary to obtain additional passenger coaches to accommodate it. Director General Pescador is taking steps to secure forty cars from the United States, for which advantageous offers have been made. Two more Pullmans of the "observation" type have been secured and will soon be put into service.

Food Send to Mexico

The following reports show the amount of corn and other food products sent from the United States into Mexico during the periods specified:

Domestic Exports for Mexico.
August 1, 10, 1918.

Barley	bus.	51
Bran & Middlings	ton	15
Bread & Biscuit	lbs.	2,171
Corn	bus.	92,146
Cornmeal	bbls.	865
Oats	bus.	4,074
Oatmeal	lbs.	3,729
Rice	lbs.	9,357
Wheat Flour	bbls.	382
Cocoa & Chocolate	Value	3,943
Coffee, Green	lbs.	330
Coffee, Prepared	lbs.	3,348
Cod, Haddock, Etc	lbs.	3,816
Herring, Dried, all other	lbs.	3,600
Salmon Canned	lbs.	748
Dried Apples	lbs.	1,460
Apricots	lbs.	275
Cattle	no.	26
Horses	no.	1
Fresh Fish	lbs.	4
Peaches, Dried	lbs.	976
Prunes, Dried	lbs.	9,560
Glucose	lbs.	613
Hay	tons	121
Canned Beef	lbs.	2,848
Fresh Beef	lbs.	940
Pickled Beef	lbs.	72
Oleomargarine	lbs.	200
Bacon	lbs.	2,988
Hams & Shoulders lbs.	lbs.	6,886
Lard	lds.	584,862
Canned Pork	lbs.	42
Fresh Pork	lbs	51
Lard Compound	lbs.	123,838
Mutton	lbs.	4
Sausage, Total	lbs.	11,375
Butter	lbs.	7,174
Cheese	lbs.	17,027
Condense,dMilk	lbs.	125,770
Lard Oil	gal.	300
All other animal oil	gal.	2,507
Linseed Oil	gal.	2,436
All other vegetable oil	gal.	383
Molasses	gal.	2
Sirup	gal.	3
Refined Sugar	lbs.	26,647
Beans & Dried Peas	bus.	5,353
Onions	bus.	1,345
Potatoes	bus.	9,409
Canned Vetetables	Value	3,029

Report of Commodities going Freely to Mexico August 1st. to 31st inclusive.

STATE	LARD (Pounds)	MILK (Pounds)	PORK (Pounds)	CORN (Bushels)
Mexican Food Commission, Mexico City				200,000
Constitutionalist Rys. of Mexico, N. Laredo, Tams.				10,000
Aguascalientes	....	....	......	6,320
Campeche	....	....	......	....
Chiapas	....	....	94	....
Chihuahua	475,120	34,845	68,907	149,990
Coahuila	1,924,670	38,530	9,680	186,839
Colima	....	240	104	600
Durango	78,200	....	......	20,800
Federal District	3,495,245	258,246	67,611	131,233
Guanajuato	....	....	......	15,000
Guerrero	....	210	......	....
Hidalgo	14,800	....	......	1,120
Jalisco	35,000	27,750	64	5,000
LowerCalifornia	21,500	6,977	133	703
Mexcio	....	....	......	2,000
Michoacan	60,000	....	......	9,800
Morelos	....	....	......	....
Nuevo Leon	2,026,150	154,600	42,889	126,900
Oaxaca	1,300	16,788	4,790	....
Puebla	99,400	....	......	10,000
Queretaro	....	....	......	....
Quintana Roo	8,620	2,525	125	....
San Luis Potosi	570,000	27	10,009	115,464
Sinaloa	75,188	26,608	12,731	....
Sonora	1,328,710	943,542	58,000	2,680
Tabasco	7,480	16,355	140	....
Tamaulipas	1,260,010	277,045	70,470	127,603
Tepic	....	3,000	......	....
Tlaxcala	....	....	......	....
Vera Cruz	1,582,665	606,022	112,594	67,935
Yucatan	....	....	......	....
Zacatecas	40,000	....	......	3,400
	13,104,058	2,403,310	453,341	1,193,387

LATE NEWS BREVITIES

The Department of Industry and Commerce has prepared an alphabetical index of all the industries actually in operation in the Federal District. This is the result of careful and minute investigation, and great pains has been taken to make it accurate and complete. It is the work of special inspectors appointed by the Department. It is divided into four sections, as follows: Food, textiles, metals, and diverse industries. It will shortly be issued for public distribution.

Under instructions of the Department of Agriculture special agents have been appointed in various portions of the Republic for the purpose of stimulating the cultivation of idle lands and introducing modern methods of agriculture. It is intended to extend this work to all portions of the country as rapidly as possible.

In order to protect the pearl fisheries of the Gulf of California it has been determined to divide the entire region where such deposits exist into two zones, which will be worked at intervals of two years respectively, thus preventing the exhaustion of the oysters which is threatened under indiscriminate exploitation.

The eighth anniversary of the foundation of the National University was celebrated with appropriate ceremonies on Sunday, September 22d.

Concessions to exploit petroleum measures beneath the waters of bays and rivers and along the maritime zone belonging to the government have been nullified until the proper steps can be taken by the government for the regulation of such matters.

Reports from the State of Chihuahua are that the crops of corn and beans in that section are abundant and prices are correspondingly low.

It is stated that the heavy demand for henequen has caused an increase in the price of that fiber on the west coast, due to its use in the explosive factories in the United States and in Europe in place of cotton, the price of which is higher than for many years. Large quantities of the fiber are being exported.

A permanent biological exhibition has been opened in the city of Mexico under the direction of Professor Alfonso Herrera, who has charge of biological investigation under the National Government. The pupils of the public schools willl be afforded opportunities to study plant and animal life through the medium of this institution.

Announcement is made that train service between Mexico City and the city of Cuernavaca, capital of the State of Morelos, will be regularly resumed. The Federal forces are in permanent occupancy of the city, and General Fortunato Zuazua has been appointed Provisional Governor of the State.

A plan is under way for the inauguration of local expositions of the varied products of the country, whether natural or artificial, and the first one was opened on September 15th at Tehuacan, State of Puebla.

In compliance with a recent decree of the President of the Republic, a course of study in agricultural mechanics has been inaugurated in the Agricultural School in this city. Practical as well as theoretical instruction will be given in the most modern agricultural methods, while shops and machinery will be provided for the purpose.

It is proposed to establish a wireless telegraph station at La Paz, Lower California, owing to the difficulties in the way of the transmission of important news and commercial messages in any other manner.

Under the management of an agent of the Department of Agriculture instructions are being given in the public schools in such matters. An arbor day was recently celebrated, during which a large number of trees were planted by the pupils. A rural school has also been established at the Hacienda Rosales, where permanent classes will be maintained in agriculture.

A movement is under way to export paper pulp from British Columbia to Mexico for the use of the three paper factories located there. A Norwegian steamship company has been engaged to handle the product.

Permission has been given to export ten thousand bales of cotton to Spain, on condition that the exporters pay an impost of ten cents per kilo, instead of the regular rate of three cents.

The city officials of Vera Cruz are taking steps to secure title to the extensive areas that have recently been reclaimed from overflow in that port, with the design to subdivide them among the poor classes for purposes of habitation.

Several of the large smelting companies operating in Mexico have petitioned the Secretary of the Treasury for permission to import ores of various kinds from Central and South America in order to refine them, in the absence of the necessary plants for such purposes at the places of production. It is asked that the ores so treated be exported free of duty. The matter is now under consideration, with the prospect that the request will be granted.

The jitney service has proved so successful in Mexico City, where many hundreds of such vehicles are operated greatly to the accommodation of the public, that it is being extended to other centers of population. The city of San Luis Potosi is to have such an innovation, which will connect it with many outlying suburbs with which communication at present is difficult.

The work of dredging the harbor at Puerto Mexico, under the direction of the Department of Communications and Public Works, has been completed and the machinery has been removed to Frontera, in the State of Tabasco, where similar improvement will be carried out. All the ports on both coasts are being benefited in like manner as rapidly as the necessary machinery can be utilized.

The Mexican Railway has sent 140 cars to Salina Cruz, on the West Coast, to transport a large amount of sugar that has arrived at that port from Peru to other portions of the Republic where it is needed. Two vessels are also due to arrive from Japan with similar cargoes.

Specimens of bread made from flour produced from the nopal cactus have been submitted to the National Board of Health for test in order to determine its suitability as food for human beings. The novel product is said to be appetizing in appearance and taste, and as there is an unlimited supply of the fruit available the originators of the new article of food are hopeful of its introduction upon a large scale.

A corps of four hundred mounted police has been organized and will be detailed for the purpose of guarding the outstkirts of the city, especially at night. The rapid growth of the suburbs in various directions has made it necessary to afford other protection than is possible by the usual police in the more sparsely settled suburbs.

The route of the Ward Line steamers connecting various Mexican ports with New York has been changed. Vessels now touch first at Vera Cruz, thence going to Tampico, thence to Galveston, thence to Havana, thence to Progreso, Yucatan, and thence directly to New York. Formerly the steamers called at Progreso first, then Vera Cruz, then Tampico, after which they returned to Vera Cruz, Progreso, Havana and New York.

A movement has been inaugurated for sending to the United States films representing various scenes, industrial, educational, social, etc., in Mexico, for the purpose of enlightening the American public as to actual conditions in the neighboring Republic and removing many of the widely held misapprehensions in relation thereto.

The Department of Labor under control of the Secretary of Industry and Commerce has prepared and will present to the National Congress laws regarding compensation for accidents, the formation of unions and mutual associations, social reforms, weekly rest of one day, strikes, contracts of labor, etc. The proposed laws are all favorable to the interests of the working people and have been drawn up after careful study and discussion with the parties interested.

General Plutarco Elias Calles, Constitutional Governor of the State of Sonora, who was some time since granted leave of absence from his civil post in order to lead the campaign for the pacification of the "Broncho" Yaquis, has now resumed his position at the head of the State Government. The rebellious Indians have been subdued and allotted lands, and it is not believed there will be much further trouble on this account.

Many thousands of acres of level lands in the State of Vera Cruz are being cultivated by the use of modern tractors. Five of these machines were at first used, and it was found that they could make three round trips daily over a strip sixteen kilometers in length—over nine miles. As a result twenty-five additional tractors have been ordered and a very extensive area will be planted in cereals.

Extensive works are in progress for the improvement of the vicinity of Tampico by filling in large areas of swamp and overflowed land adjacent to the city and devoting the reclaimed tracts to residential and commercial purposes. This improvement will also add to the salubrity of the place, the swamp lands having been conducive to malarial and other fevers.

A petition has been presented to the Department of Communications and Public Works for permission to construct a line of railway from the city of Campeche, capital of the State of the same name, into the interior in order to provide a region known as "Los Chines" with transportation. This region is populated by an indigenous tribe which is very industrious and peaceable, but which has been retarded by lack of communication.

The establishment of a series of agricultural colonies has been undertaken in the State of Nayarit (formerly Tepic) under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture. Irrigation canals and dikes will be constructed and the settlers will be aided in every way to make their holdings productive.

Permission has been asked by the Southern Pacific Railway of Mexico for the construction of a branch from some point on the main line of that road in Arizona to the vicinity of Lechnel, Sonora, in order to aid in the development of the mineral and agricultural resources of that region.

The National Agrarian Commission has ordered the restoration of several pueblos or community lands in the States of Vera Cruz and Sinaloa.

General Francisco Murguia, the military commander in the State of Chihuahua, having met with great success in the establishment of a colony for small farmers from among his forces in the vicinity of Chihuahua City, has now undertaken to establish one at Laguna, on the line to Juarez, and will also establish others as the occasion permits. The best results in the maintenance of peace and the prevention of banditry are expected to follow this movement.

The National Board of Health has issued instructions that in all restaurants, hotels, etc., where sugar is served for the use of customers, it must be kept in receptacles which close automatically, or in those so constructed that the contents cannot be contaminated by flies. In no case must it be exposed to the air.

Wilson Through Mexican Eyes

A Visiting Newspaper Man Gives His Impressions of the Great War President

(The following description of an interview with President Wilson was written by J. de J. Nunezy Dominguez, in *Excelsior*, a newspaper published in Mexico City. The interview described is presumably that in which President Wilson made his famous speech to the Mexican editors proposing a new doctrine of Inter-Americanism to take the place of the Monroe Doctrine. The article is interesting not only because of the impressive picture it paints of the President in these war days, but because it is written by a neutral, and especially by a Mexican.)

AN aide-de-camp points out to us with quiet but friendly gesture the places we are to occupy in order to have our interview with President Wilson. We are in the "Blue Room" of the White House, where we have arrived after passing through the lawns which lie between the street and the presidential dwelling. It is a severe room. Almost down to the floor the walls are painted a dark blue, made darker by the heavy curtains which hang at the windows. Two chandeliers, suspended from the ceiling, flaunt their prismatic crystals in the afternoon glow.

We are silent, expectant. Running my eyes over the faces of my companions, I see signs of emotion. In their countenances I can trace the nervous tension; their eyes are fixed. It is a solemn moment.

There is a stir among the attendants. Ready hands sweep back the curtains, and framed in the luminous square of the door stands Mr. Wilson. A hearty round of applause greets him, and the great man smiles. Then, while one of our number makes a brief address, I look him over at my leisure. There are the eye-glasses, the same I have seen pictured a thousand times; that thin face is the one which photographs and engravings have carried to the ends of the earth; from that mouth, with its strong-looking teeth, has gone forth the new evangel of the nations.

The President listens attentively. His hair, though gray, is not yet white. His clean-shaven, angular face reveals by its clear skin and high color perfect physical condition, and his form, neither short nor tall—short rather than tall—is erect and firm. He is dressed simply, in summer wear, a blue serge sack coat, from the left lapel of which a small chain descends into the outside pocket, white trousers and white low shoes. As he turns toward the speaker his characteristic glasses and his thoughtful head are lighted up by rays from without which glitter fascinatingly upon the marble columns behind him.

The thing that chiefly impresses me is his democratic simplicity; it promptly puts at their ease even those who, like ourselves, have come from distant and foreign lands thus into his presence. This First Citizen of the United States is in appearance merely a reputable inhabitant of any one of the country's cities, a circumstance which at once gets in motion a wholesome train of thought. One reflects that, after all, a government of the people by the people has no need of pedigreed beings after the manner of princes, but simply of plain men like this, who, for all of his modesty, is guiding over the sea of politics a mighty ship of state, carrying thousands upon thousands of free citizens.

Now the President is speaking, and our spirits strain with attention, like tense cords on which the slightest breath might play. His voice is clear and firm, the voice of a man accustomed to face audiences of free voters. His manner and accent are moderate at first. Finger and thumb pressed together seem meant to add emphasis, to underscore, as it were, his opening sentences. Then his voice becomes vibrant and individual. It warms especially as he begins to speak of those high ideals which are his special doctrine. His right arm is lifted apostolically, and his hand opens as he dwells on the liberation of peoples and the rights of humanity. Turning then to words of welcome for us and of good wishes, a smile plays over his face.

There were moments while he was speaking when, good college man that I am, I fancied myself a student on a recitation bench in Princeton University, faced by a wise and genial professor. It was as though the President were speaking in some sacred hall of learning, which gave all the more weight to those wise words which make him a preacher of progress. Then when I came to him in line, to take his hand, when I heard from his lips the courteous words, "I am very glad to know you!" I pressed with genuine reverence those fingers which were created to transcribe words of incalculable significance for the world.

And with the emotion of that moment still upon me, when my good star brought me into the presence of one of the leading men of these stupendous times, I have hastened to set down these lines that I might imprison in them one of the most indelible recollections of my life as a journalist.

New Mining Claims Filed

During the month from January 17 to February 17, the Department of the Treasury forfeited 228 mining claims for failure to comply with the laws governing such matters. In the same period the Secretary of Industry and Commerce granted 52 new claims, the greater portion being in the State of Sonora, while Nuevo Leon, Chihuahua, San Luis Potosi and Sinaloa came next in order. The claims covered a wide range of minerals, including: Gold, 1; silver, 1; copper, 7; antimony, 1; gold and silver, 13; gold, silver and lead, 3; gold, silver and copper, 6; gold, silver, copper and lead, 1; silver, copper and iron, 1; silver, copper, lead and zinc, 1; lead and zinc, 1; lead, copper and zinc, 1; molybdenum, 1; lead and zinc, with traces of silver, 2.

Colonel Alberto Salinas, the chief of the Department of Aviation, has commenced the manufacture of armored aeroplanes in the well equipped shops of that branch of the service. Various improvements have been adopted which have been invented by Mexican mechanics, and it is believed the new machines will equal anything in the world if not surpass them.

LATE NEWS NOTES

The Governor of the State of Queretaro has taken steps for the establishment of a school of arts and sciences in the capital city of that commonwealth for the benefit of the working people of both sexes.

A Congress of the Owners of Petroleum Lands throughout the Republic was recently organized in Mexico City, and has held several sessions. Many millions of dollars are represented in the new society.

The Legislature of the State of Jalisco has authorized the construction of a railway line connecting Guadalajara with the famous Falls of Juanacatlan, in order to make that resort more accessible to the common people.

The period for the importation of articles of food free of tariff has been extended until the 31st of December of the present year. The articles so exempted include: Lard, sugar, rice, potatoes, corn, wheat, barley, garbanzo, lentils, beans, oats and flour of all classes.

The commission appointed by President Carranza to inquire into and determine the claims for damages on account of the Revolution has established its headquarters in the Central Bank Building, in Mexico City, and will receive all such claims and adjudicate them.

Professor Agustin Boone, of the Educational Department of the State of Coahuila, announces that there have been established schools in every village and hamlet or hacienda where there are fifteen or more children, and the claim is made that under the stimulus given to such matters by Governor Mireles, of Coahuila, that State outranks all others in the Republic in the number of schools of all grades.

A contract has recently been closed between the Rosita Coal Mining Company, in the State of Coahuila, and Governor Espinosa Mireles, for the employment of a large force of men at a minimum wage of $1.50 per day national gold, which is a considerable increase over the average heretofore. A newly organized foreign company will open new coal mines upon an extensive scale in the same State, and will employ upward of six thousand men.

An offer has been received by the Government from a well-known impresario to complete the National Theater at his own expense in return for a concession for the exclusive use of the building for theatrical purposes for two years after completion. He offers to deposit a guaranty fund of $400,000 that the work will be done in accordance with the plans of the original architect. The structure has been under way for some twenty years.

A special commission from the Department of Fomento was dispatched some time ago to investigate certain land grants in the State of Yucatan and the Territory of Quintana Roo, the holders of which had not in any manner complied with the terms of their concessions as to improvement, settlement, cultivation, etc. As a result of the investigation a total of 1,765,000 acres of land has been returned to the Government, and it will now be surveyed and allotted to those who will make use thereof.

Governor Espinosa Mireles, of the State of Coahuila, has issued instructions to all municipal authorities under his jurisdiction to organize Agricultural Commissions in their respective localities for the purpose of carrying out the necessary measures for the stimulation of all forms of agriculture and horticulture.

Some Mexican Reminicences

Where the Cost of Living Was Far From High—Dried Oysters—Tourists Who Ordered Some Fried Babies

IN THE course of my travels in Mexico I enjoyed many interesting experiences, showing the kindly and courteous character of the natives. For example: One cold, rainy day in December my exceptionally stupid *mozo* lost his way—we were following some little-used trails along the mountain ridges of the western slope of the Sierra Madre, having been driven from the regular route in a canyon by high water. At last the trails, which were mere cattle tracks, gave out, and Hilario, the *mozo,* was obliged to confess himself lost. We were away up on a narrow, rocky ridge, the rain coming down in torrents, and I had no protection except a heavy Durango blanket wrapped around the body. The obvious thing to do was to get down off the mountain top into some canyon as soon as possible, and this we did, sliding and slipping and jumping our animals over places which seemed impassable, but which perforce had to be negotiated. Finally, we struck a dim trail and late in the afternoon picked up a peon who offered to guide us to a ranch.

We reached the place about dark, as lonely and forbidding a spot as one ever saw, away down deep in a narrow canyon, with just enough space to accommodate a small adobe house and a corral for animals. There were several men and women there—afterwards I learned that it was a notorious resort for bandidos and "sin verguenzas" of that ilk, and when I afterwards told people that I had passed a night at Las Ventanas, they were amazed and could scarcely credit it. However, nothing transpired during our stay to show this, and we were treated by all with great consideration. I asked the woman who apparently headed the household if we could get something to eat, and some feed for our mules. She said yes, and before long a good meal for all three of us was ready, consisting of fresh eggs (three for each person), tortillas, frijoles, cheese of the country and coffee—the latter supplied by ourselves. Our mules were also fed, and we passed the night on cots furnished by the landlady, in the portal of the house, the *mozo* keeping a fire going all night, as it was quite cold and damp. In the morning we took merely a cup of coffee, as we desired to make an early start, and getting an early breakfast not being one of the usual habits in this country. When ready to leave I asked the landlady how much I owed her. After hesitating a moment, as if in fear of making an overcharge, she replied in a diffident manner: *"Quince centavos, Señor"* (fifteen cents Mexican, or 7½ cents gold). I handed her a 50-cent piece, which threw her into a panic. She had no change; there was no money in the house; could I not give her the exact amount? I told her there was no change needed, and we departed followed by a volley of *"Mil graciases!"* and *"Adioses!"*

More than once I was accommodated by natives in lonely places with the best they had had to eat, while payment was absolutely refused. I have had families insist upon giving up their sleeping apartment, the only one they had, for my accommodation, and have had courtesy of every kind bestowed upon me freely and gladly. I always found some way of recompensing my free-hearted hosts, either with gifts of coffee, most highly prized indeed by them, or with presents of coin to the children or the women folks. In the more remote regions of the mountains coffee is indeed a luxury to the natives, both from its high price and from the difficulty of obtaining it. Always when camping near a native's house, I would make a big pot of coffee and invite the men to sit by the fire and share in the beverage. Then the coffee was passed along to the women and children, and we would hear them far into the night enjoying themselves over it, adding hot water from time to time until the last drop of the essence of the berry had been extracted and but a mere flavor of coffee remained. The coffee pot was always a sure passport to the good graces of these people, and they tried in every way to show their gratitude for the unusual treat.

An odd experience in another direction was in connection with the Chinese proprietor of a sort of restaurant operated for the employes of a coal-mining camp in the State of Coahuila. The company with which I was then connected had taken a contract to construct a new railroad bridge across a river close to the mine, and I went in advance to see what arrangements could be made with regard to food for the five or six Americans who were to have charge of the work, the rank and file of the employes being Mexicans. I found that the only place where food could be obtained was the mine boarding house, and accordingly addressed myself to the proprietor, a jolly, good-natured Mongolian who spoke a little English. When I asked him if he could board a half-dozen Americans he said: "Yes, but I think you not like it. This glub here pletty damn bum. This glub only for peones." I asked him how much he charged per month and he replied that his price was $20 Mex., $10 gold! Naturally, one could not expect much for such a price, so I asked him if he could not arrange to give us better food than that supplied the miners, telling him we were willing to pay what it was worth. He asked: "How much you pay? You pay $30 month?" I told him yes, we were willing to pay so much as that—$15 gold per month! For this large sum he agreed to provide a separate room for us, to give us chicken three times a week at least, with turkey on Sunday; to give us pie twice a day (think of it—twice a day!), and he even served it for breakfast several times when asked, and to supply plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit. So the bargain was made and for five or six months we ate the "pletty damn bum glub." Then came a shut-down of the mine. Of course, none of the peones had any money saved up, or more than a day's supply of food in their cabins, while those who had been eating at the boarding house had their supplies cut off at once. There were four windows to the room wherein we Americans ate, and at meal time each window was packed with hungry-eyed natives, gazing at each mouthful we swallowed as if they were starving—which they probably were. For one, I know that I felt guilty to be sitting there eating in the presence of so much hunger. Finally, we concluded that all the food put on the table was our own property to do with as we pleased, and we began passing out bread, meat and what not, leaving the dishes bare to a crumb. The Chinaman found this out after a while, and arming himself with a club, chased the peones away time and again, but was never able to stop the practice. He was afraid to say anything to us, as we were his best-paying customers, and as soon as he had given over chasing the poor devils away we would again pass out the food. Often while he was chasing one gang away another would run to the window, grab what we held out, and then hike for the brush, devouring the food like wild animals. Happily the shut down did not last long, much to our relief, for hungry men, women and children are not at all conducive to one's own appetite.

I afterwards learned that this Chinaman was conducting a sort of school for his fellow countrymen, instructing them in the proper answers to the questions that were apt to be propounded by the immigration inspectors in the States. After graduation from this school, the candidate would, upon advance payment of $400, be put across the Rio Grande River some dark night. There was a constant succession of strange Chinese coming and going from this place, and some one certainly reaped a good harvest from the per capita. [At the present time the rate is from $1500 to $2000 per head.]

I was present at one meal when I most emphatically refused to partake of the proffered viands. I had gone out along the line of the railroad to inspect progress on a bridge being put in in a remote spot, and had taken a light lunch with me. At noon the native workmen built a fire and were soon busy cooking something, what I did not exactly make out. If there had been water near by, I would have thought they had caught some large fish and were frying it after cutting it into pieces. When the cooking was finished I was asked if I would partake. "What is it?" I asked. *"Vivaro de kaskabel—nada mas,"* was the reply. But inasmuch as my education in the gastatory line had failed to include rattlesnake chops in the bill of fare, I begged to be excused. But the peones did not leave a morsel of the delectable mess. Truth to tell, however, the meat was white and far from unappetizing in appearance, but no snake in mine, if you please, no matter how hungry I might be. Over on the west coast the natives eat the iguana, a great lizard of most repulsive appearance. The flesh, however, like that of the rattlesnake, is white and not at all unappetizing in appearance. A friend of mine stopped at a native hut one day and asked for something to eat. It being the family's meal time, he was handed a dish of stew which he soon devoured, finding it very toothsome and tender. After he had finished his meal, he asked what he had been eating, and was told *"Carne de iguana."* No emetic could have acted quicker than did this information, and the traveler passed on, emptier but wiser, and with a determination never again to eat any native dish without inquiring its nature beforehand.

One of my queerest experiences was down at Culiacan, on the west coast, the capital city of the State of Sinaloa. I am very fond of oysters and fish, and while traveling through the mountains of Western Durango I had frequently seen fine strings of trout offered on the streets of remote villages at half a cent or a cent each. I was told that when I reached Culiacan I would find an abundance of salt-water fish and oysters from the Gulf of California, the supply being brought from the port of Altata, about 40 miles from the capital city, which is an inland town. When I finally reached the place I learned that the trains bringing the oysters and fish only came up three times a week, and that if I wished to obtain any of the delicacies I would have to be on hand in the market by five in the morning, as the demand was so great that the supply was always quickly exhausted. As I did not care to get up so early, on the evening before I gave my *mozo* 75 cents and explicit directions to take a *casuela,* or dish, go to the market early in the morning and invest the amount in fresh oysters, but as we had no means of opening them, he was to have the dealer remove the shells. When I arose next morning, I asked the *mozo* if he had bought the oysters. *"Si, Señor,"* was the reply. "Where are they?" "In my *maral*" (a sort of saddle bag made of fiber). My heart misgave me at this information, as I did not exactly see what fresh oysters could be doing in such a receptacle. I directed the *mozo* to bring me the oysters, whereupon the intelligent youth drew a dirty paper parcel out of the bag and opening it displayed to my astonished vision a couple of hundred *dried oysters!* They were about the most unappetizing, ill-smelling, dirty-looking objects that one can conceive. They were not actually dried, but had been heavily salted, and then spread in the sun until most of the moisture was evaporated. Of course, I could do nothing with the mass, but I learned subsequently that if I had soaked them over night, then parboiled them, and then cooked them in a soup, I could have eaten them. Doubtless after this process they would have been fully as palatable as so many bits of boiled leather.

But I was destined not long after to have a feast of oysters such as had never before fallen to my lot. Visiting La Prosperidad, an American colony about 50 miles south of Culiacan, on the newly constructed Southern Pacific line from Guaymas to Guadalajara, I was told that oysters were abundant on an islet off the coast a few miles. So a party of us went thither at the first opportunity. We found some Indian fishermen with dugouts, and for a consideration they paddled us off to the island. We found it nothing but a solid bed of oyster shells and live oysters, and as the tide was low, had no difficulty in gathering up several hundred fine, large specimens in a few minutes. There was some driftwood on the island, and we straightway proceeded to roast oysters and to open and eat them raw until filled to repletion. On a part of the island where some sand and earth had gathered were bushes with limbs that hung in the water at high tide, and these were covered with small oysters which we found of most delicious flavor, but when we subsequently told of finding oysters growing on trees, ready at hand for gathering, we were met with such scoffing incredulity that I quit telling about it until now. The oysters on the gulf coast and farther south are very large, fat and white in color, and as fine as any I ever ate in New York years ago. In the towns along the coast and for miles back within reach of pack trains, oysters are sold all the year round, there being no closed season there during the R'less months, as with us. The average price is two for one cent Mex., or one-quarter of a cent each in gold. An expenditure of eight or ten cents thus secures about all an able-bodied man with a good appetite can consume at a sitting.

Speaking of oysters reminds me of a funny little story of the experience of some American *turistas* in the city of Monterrey. There was quite a party of the strangers, included in the number being a young lady armed with a Spanish-English dictionary, who took upon herself the management of affairs. Seeing a sign of "Oysters" in a resaurant window, they concluded they would indulge in a light lunch, but upon entering the place were disappointed to find that the English-speaking attendant had just stepped out. "Oh, never mind," said the confident young lady; "I can manage it. We will have a small fry each. Let's see" (turning the pages of the dictionary. "Um-um-small-small—Oh, yes, '*chiquita*'; that means small. Now fry—fry—here it is, '*frita.*' That's it—*chiquita frita*—small fry." So, calling a waiter, with the utmost confidence the young linguist informed him that the party required a *chiquita frita* for each. But the waiter stared in amazement, not to say horror. "No, no, no!" was all they could understand of the torrent of Spanish that he poured forth, the while he gesticulated violently and seemed overcome with wonder or some other feeling. But the young woman persisted that nothing but a *chiquita frita* would do, and so a deadlock seemed imminent, when a gentleman at an adjoining table addressed the party and offered his services in straightening out the tangle. Thereupon, he ordered the desired dishes as requested, but after doing so asked the visitors if they knew what they had really told the waiter they wanted. Of course, they were in blissful ignorance, which changed to amazement when the gentleman informed them that they had really asked the attendant to bring each of them a fried baby!

An experience which is apt to puzzle the stranger for a little while is the frequent absence of knives and forks from the table in many places where one would naturally expect to find such conveniences, not to say necessities. It is a trifling disconcerting to sit down at table and find the food served without these aids to its consumption. However, if the stranger be of an observant turn, he will have long since taken note of the deft manner in which the native, using portions of a tortilla in each hand, will convey the food to his mouth neatly, cleanly and expeditiously. After a trial or two it will be found comparatively easy. Tearing a tortilla into quarters, one piece is folded into a sort of trough between the thumb and forefinger of the left hand, while with the other portion in the right hand, the beans or what not are deftly shoved into the fold, which in turn is conveyed to the mouth, where as much of the tortilla as contains the other food is bitten off with it and masticated. The process is repeated until tortilla and beans are entirely consumed. A few experiments in this direction will make one an adept at the process, which has its advantages in the way of simplifying the labors of the housewife and reducing the table furniture and equipment to a minimum.

Just one little anecdote and I will shut off: Attention, you prune-joke writers! Did you know that there is a country at your very door where prunes are a luxury, only to be indulged in by the well to do? It is a fact nevertheless. Down in Mexico City they sell the smallest dried prunes, small as marbles, on the street at three for a cent! And no one thinks of using them as they are used throughout the United States. There is a wealthy railroad corporation in this country which once upon a time kept several gangs of Americans in the field, and for convenience boarded them at the corporation's expense. The foreman of one of these gangs sent in his regular monthly requisition for supplies once upon a time, and included therein what he considered a reasonable amount of prunes, for it is an old proverb among frontiersmen, miners and the like that there is no such peace-maker and peace-keeper as regular rations of prunes. Fact! But back came a letter from the chief supply man, asking how many prunes it was customary to allow each man at a meal. The foreman replied that he put no limit on the number, but that each one helped himself to as many as he wanted. Then came a circular letter to each chief of a gang: "Hereafter, the cook of each gang will serve the prunes in separate dishes to each man, *and under no circumstances shall any man be given more than three prunes at any one meal.*" Such a notice is surely calculated to make a California prune grower, glad to get four or five cents a pound for his fruit, sit up and take notice.

"EL GRINGO."

LIC. RAMON OBREGON
CIVIL, CRIMINAL AND FEDERAL LAW
10 A. M. AND 4 P. M.
Mexico, D. F. **Monte De Piedad**
P. O. B. No. 598 **No. 13**

General Resumption of Mining

Great Demand for Silver and Its Increased Price Causes Renewal of Activity in Mexico

THE world's total production of silver is at present running about 130,000,000 ounces a year, of which 80,000,000 ounces is yielded by American silver mines or mines carrying the metal as a by-product. In normal times Mexico's output is 70,000,000 ounces, or close to the American total.

This stabilizing of the market for silver at a highly profitable price, coming as it does upon the heels of the re-establishment of stable government in the Mexican State of Sonora and the inception of renewed mining activity on an unprecedented scale in that section, will be of the greatest assistance in extending operations in Mexican mining properties on which work has been suspended partially or entirely during the long period of disorder and internal strife in the southern Republic.

Before the outbreak of the recent Mexican revolution that country led the world in the production of silver, with a yield of upwards of 70,000,000 ounces yearly. In consequence of the restoration of order in Sonora, guarantee of protection by the Mexican authorities and phenomenal improvement in business conditions generally, practically all of the important mining companies have resumed work, while the growing interest in mining operations in that portion of the neighboring Republic makes it probable that within a very short time it will lead the entire country in the production of all metals. This is only natural, since Sonora is not only fortunate in being one of the Mexican States immediately adjoining the United States, but has vastly superior railroad facilities.

Sonora has an area of 77,000 square miles, admittedly one of the most highly mineralized portions of the entire globe. Deposits of gold, silver and copper occur in remarkable abundance, and, under modern management, many have developed great commercial importance, while hundreds have remained unworked since their abandonment during the revolution against Spain, from 1810 to 1821. Long before the Spaniard came, in 1519, the natives had developed primitive methods of mining and metallurgy which gave them large quantities of precious metal and of copper and bronze implements.

Sonora is pitted and honeycombed with abandoned shafts, open cuts and underground workings which are now called "antiguas," the term applying to all of the ancient workings operated before the revolt against Spain in 1810. In the clear atmosphere, on the treeless hills and mountains, the traveler sees everywhere openings of old workings that record the mining industry of the early days. In this climate of small rainfall and rapid erosion, the gradual decay of ledges and impregnated rocks, wherever exposed, resulted in surface accumulations of precious metal, especially near the exposures of gold-bearing veins. In these detrital deposits, or "placers," the first miners reaped a rich and easy harvest. Later, under Spanish rule, the introduction of the "arrastre," the use of quicksilver and various technical devices, gave the miner control of a large field of action and new resources of profits. Practically no machinery, however, was used in mining, and the notched log or "chicken ladder," with the rawhide bucket on the back of the "peon," was the primitive substitute for present-day hoisting and pumping machinery. So, also, the slow hand boring of shallow holes and the breaking down of the ore by the Spanish method, of quicklime packed in the holes and moistened, were the humble though efficient substitutes for the use of modern machine drills and dynamite.

As a result of these conditions, work was limited in depth for lack of pumping machinery, and in thoroughness by imperfect methods of extraction. The "arrastre" could be erected and worked without capital other than that needful to command the services of a cheap mule or burro, and since the slowness of the process was unimportant and little or no value was assigned to the labor of man or beast, it was effective on free-milling gold ore, even of very low grade, but useless for the extraction of gold from sulphides. One, therefore, usually finds that an "antigua" mine has not been exhausted in depth, unless the orebody was very shallow and that in the old workings, and below them, there often is rich ore unfit for the "arrastre" but available for modern metallurgy. Further, there may be waste dumps rich enough for treatment by modern methods. At one time substantial returns were gained by a company which sent out a portable cyanide plant to treat the dumps of old "arrastre" tailings.

The ancient mine workings or "antiguas" of Sonora are of much interest, for many of them have become richly productive in the hands of people with capital and up-to-date methods. Whenever the ancient miners worked extensively, it may be inferred that they found ore profitable for treatment by their methods. That these old mines were rarely worked out is due to several reasons:

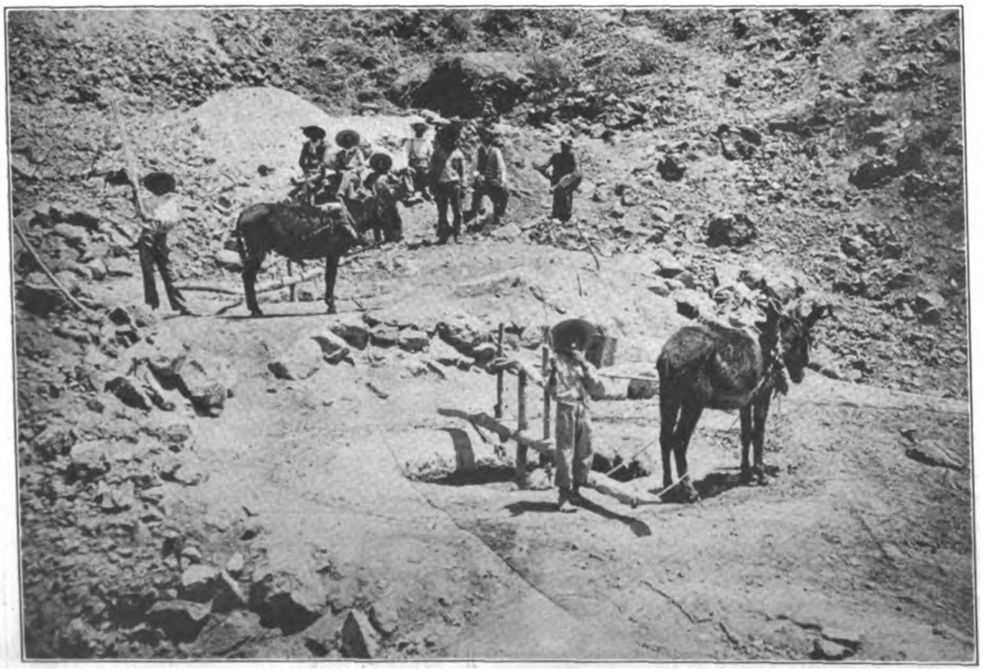
First, the lack of means of handling large volumes of water, since many "antiguas" show rich ore when unwatered.

Second, the fact that the old miners knew nothing of the geology of ore deposits and did not appreciate that an orebody might be expected to pinch out or be cut off by faults and that a new orebody, or the continuation of the first, might be found by exploration. The old Mexican miner only followed the ore and knew nothing of systematic development.

Third, the early miners only sought for ore which could be worked in the "arrastre" or reduced in their simple "adobe" furnaces. Any gold ore not free milling, or any silver ore from which the metals could not be recovered by their simple treatment, was useless. Copper was of little interest to them, and it is not known that any mine was actively worked for copper. The Aztecs, however, used some copper tools and a small quantity of this metal was used by the Spaniards for church bells.

"Antigua" mines differ very much in appearance from mines of present day because the following of the ore was the only purpose in view, and little, if any, waste rock was taken out. The underground workings are, therefore, of very variable dimensions and extremely irregular in direction. Where the roof needed support this was more often supplied by pillars than by timbering, and in later years "gambusinos" (prospectors) and others have robbed the pillars and allowed the ground to cave.

Although its mineral wealth was known of old, Sonora was practically closed to the miner



Grinding Gold Ore in an Arastra, Sonora, Mexico, Mine. Crudest but Effective Method of Separating Free Gold From Quartz

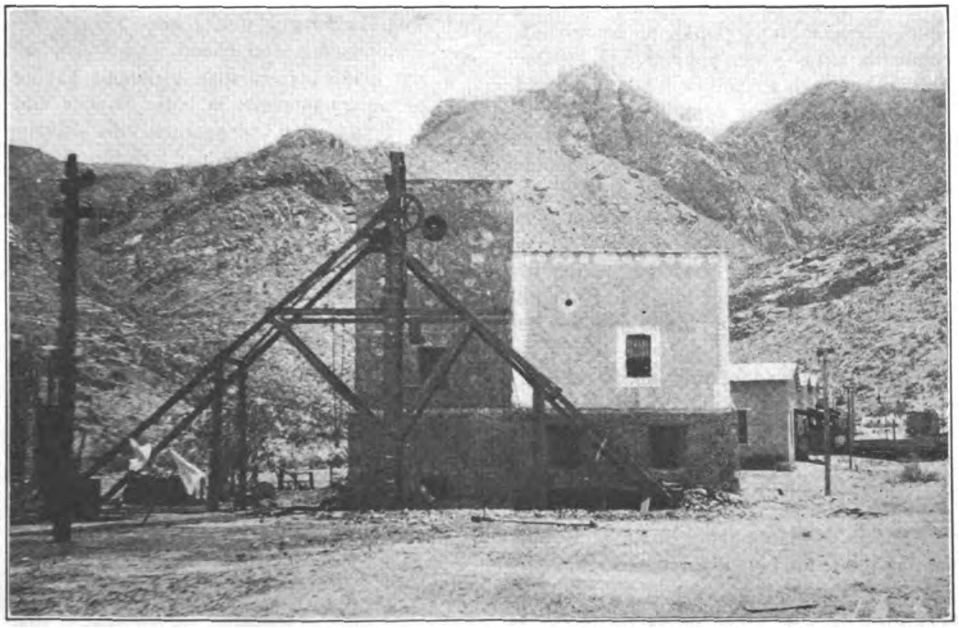
for nearly half a century after the end of the revolution against Spain. This was due to the depredations of the Apache Indians, who, after the Mexican troops retired, ravished this southwestern country. It has, indeed, been truly remarked that for a long time Sonora was under the Apache government rather than that of Mexico. After the purchase by the United States in 1853, under the Gadsden treaty, of the territory south of the Gila, southern Arizona was somewhat protected by soldiers until the beginning of the Civil War, when, on the withdrawal of these troops, savages overran many of the white settlements. The region remained subject to their depredations and largely closed to commerce until after the completion of the Southern Pacific Railway. This greatly facilitated transportation of troops and the final capture of Geromino soon followed in 1886. From that time dates the opening of Sonora to the modern miner.

Native Miners in Sonora, Mexico

The copper zone of Sonora is the southward continuation of that of Arizona and extends for nearly the whole of the State. Deposits of this metal occur rather frequently in all the districts. As in Arizona, so in Sonora, the principal copper orebodies are in limestone or associated with it, and, in turn, are in close relation to masses or dikes of eruptive rock, which contains copper or has stimulated the flow of a copper-bearing medium. While the presence of green stains on quartz, indicating the existence of carbonates and silicates of copper, has led in many places to the expenditure of much time and money in the attempt to make copper mines, it seems established, after many trials, that no one has yet succeeded in developing a substantial copper mine on a quartz vein in Sonora. In some of the silver mines, tetrahedrite occurs in quartz, and from this copper comes as a by-product with the silver, but the large copper producers are all on or near lime-porphyry contacts. Many large quartz veins are barren, although deposits of commercial importance are often found in the country beside the vein. Further, many of the largest and most productive orebodies contain very little quartz. Most of the large veins carry copper, lead, gold and silver. There are few mines of silver free from copper. Gold occurs in nearly all the copper ores, so that the copper mines are usually producers of gold. A notable exception is the Pilares at Nacozari. Gold also occurs to some extent in quartz veins. These latter occurrences are chiefly in the Altar district. Iron pyrite and copper sulphides carry gold and yield, by their decomposition, oxides, silicates and carbonates, which give up their gold to amalgamation in the "arrastre."

The zone of oxidation in Sonora is generally, except on steep mountain slopes, quite deep. So few of the mines have been worked far into the zone of unaltered sulphides that it is too early to undertake a general discussion of the types of Sonora ore deposits. It may, however, be stated that the predominating type is the impregnated shear zone. This is a zone of shattered rock of greater or lesser width, where fractured ore faulting has occurred in a series of parallel fissures very close together. Through this fragmental material, a metallizing solution has flowed, saturating the fragments to a variable extent with lead, silver, gold, copper or other metal, but not carrying sufficient silica to form a distinct vein-stone. Sometimes local deposits of quartz are formed in the shear zone and these, when exposed at the surface, resemble true vein outcrops, but do not continue far in length or depth, although there may be important bodies of ore beneath them. As might be expected, the metallizing solution appears usually to have taken a wandering course.

The ore bodies are the record of a flow that has often divided, in passing, the less porous rock masses, so that "horses" are formed, both along the vein and sometimes in its width. These "horses" are not entirely barren, but carry low-grade ore. The formation of large "horses" along the shear zone gives the effect of shoots or chimneys of ore that unite at depth. A peculiar condition sometimes noticed is the offsetting of the ore through the constriction of the zone of flow and its division in a lateral direction to be succeeded after a distance by a widening again and the resumption of ore along the general course. The result of this is a displacement similar to that which might result from the faulting of a fissure-vein. In the shear zone, however, there is no marked fissure to guide the miner in determining geometrically the position of the displaced orebody. Exploration work alone will find it.


Haunted Mining Shaft Into Which Over 100 Bodies of Murdered Natives and Foreigners Were Thrown in the Time of the French Invasion

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The free importation of autos, wagons, carts and other vehicles has been extended until December 31, 1918. Trucks, tractors and other forms of vehicles of this class are also included.

Mining in Mexico

As Depicted by an Author Over Fifty Years Ago—The Observations of Lieutenant Mowry

LIEUT. SYLVESTER MOWRY, who in his day was one of the foremost mining and civil engineers identified with the State of Arizona and northwestern Mexico, in 1864 wrote a book on the geography, history and resources of that region. Lieutenant Mowry was a graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point, and was associated with Generals Sherman, McClellan and Dodge and other equally famous military engineers in making a reconnaissance survey from 1840 to 1861 for the construction of a transcontinental railroad across the United States. He also at one time occupied the position of United States Boundary Commissioner in Arizona. In his various capacities he gained an intimate knowledge of Sonora and Arizona and accumulated vast mining holdings in both States. During the Civil War he was arrested on a charge of supplying the Confederates with lead for bullets from his mines on the international boundary line, which he afterward lost and which are now known as the famous Mowry mines. He was tried and acquitted of the charge, it having been proved that it was impossible for him to ship lead from his mines to the Southern States by the primitive means of transportation in sufficient quantities to give aid to the Secessionists.

In his book Lieutenant Mowry gives a graphic description of the mineral resources of Sonora which makes highly interesting reading today in view of the renewed and growing activity there as a result of the restoration of peace, after years of internal strife, as well as the fact that the opportunities awaiting capital in Sonora are just as great today as they were at the time he wrote the book. Considerable space in the book is devoted to the San Javier district, in which the properties of the International Mines Development Company, the LaDura mine of the Mines Company of America and other properties now attracting attention are located. Among the properties in the district named to which Lieutenant Mowry made special reference are the Los Bronces and Las Animas. The Los Bronces mine was adjacent to the present La Dura mine, already referred to, one of the properties of the Mines Company of America, and enjoys as eminent a position among Mexican mines today as it did when it was known by its former name. The Las Animas mine is of great present-day importance, and is owned by the Laughlin Mining Company. At the time revolutionary movements in that section compelled suspension of operations there the mine had blocked out silver-lead ore reserves of a value of over $1,000,000. Practically all of the other mines in the San Javier district referred to by Lieutenant Mowry in his book are known to present-day mining men, but under somewhat different names, as great properties and with only one or two exceptions have not been developed to greater depth than 500 feet. These mines, figuratively speaking, have only been scratched, and are certain to yield under development great rewards to their present owners.

In chapter 5 of his book Lieutenant Mowry says in part:

"The prospects of Sonora have much improved since 1859. The constitutional power of the State has been boldly asserted, and maintained with courage and ability by Governor Pesqueira; the disturbances caused by the Yaqui Indians suppressed with a firm hand, revolutions nipped in the bud, and profound peace maintained for a long time past. A new port, La Libertad, on the Gulf of California, above Guaymas, has been opened, giving an immediate out let to the valuable district of Altar and Northeastern Sonora, and to Arizona. A liberal grant has been made by the Legislature of Sonora to an Eastern company, ably represented by General Angel Trias, for the right-of-way of a railroad from Guaymas to El Paso, to connect with the Southern Pacific Railroad.

"This road, which would now have been in an advanced state had it not been for the Civil War in the United States, must some day be built. The extension of the Opelousas Railroad from New Orleans, with the Memphis branch to San Antonio, Texas, and El Paso, then to Guaymas, will surely be built before any other road when wise counsel shall take the place of the madness of the hour, and peace again shed her benignant smile over our happy country. European capital, with the valuable grants in aid of constructing the road, was secured to a sufficient amount to insure its rapid completion. The calculations on which this foreign aid was procured remain valid, and the development of Sonora and Arizona will increase their value. The great valley of the Mississippi will be placed in easy communication with the Pacific—a communication most devoutly to be wished. An immense item—never yet noted, I believe, in the trade of such a road—will be the freight of unnumbered tons of ores, not sufficiently rich to bear the present costly transportation. As a friend, who is more poetical than pious, remarked to me: 'God never intended these ores, worth $10 or $20 a ton, to remain useless forever.' I see no reason to change, in any degree, my opinion of the great superiority of the Southern route along the thirty-second parallel for the Overland Mail and Pacific Railroad.

"The temporary and partial success during the very mild winter of 1862 and 1863 of the Northern Overland Mail is no decided proof in its favor. 'One swallow does not make summer.' The change of climate—and vastly less cost—is indisputably with the Southern route. I have therefore reproduced, in a subsequent chapter, an abstract from the speech of Senator Davis and my own brief remarks. I stand by them, and am willing to risk what reputation I may have on their accuracy.

"A considerable amount of Eastern capital has been invested in city lots in Guaymas and in landed property near this magnificent port. The foundries of this city (San Francisco) are turning out engines, mills and costly machinery for the several mines owned in part here. The steamship line established between San Francisco and Guaymas is not only a permanent institution, but the communication will soon be greatly facilitated by the addition of another steamer to the route. The last steamer went full to her guards with freight and passengers, and this is but the beginning. I am drawing no fancy picture. The reader can inquire for himself. I repeat, with a sincere conviction of their truth, the words of Ward in his able work on Mexico.

"I am aware that many of the statements in this and preceding books, respecting the mineral riches of the north of New Spain (Sonora, Arizona, Chihuahua and Durango) will be thought exaggerated. *They are not so. They will be confirmed by every future report;* and in after years the public, familiarized with *facts—which are questioned only because they are new—will wonder at its present incredulity, and regret the loss of advantages which may not always be within its reach.*

"I submit the descriptions contained in the following chapters of various mines in Sonora to the attentive consideration of the public. Detailed notices of La Cananea, Cieneguita and others are given, not to show that they are the only good mines, but as types of different classes of mines which are found in the State. The question of labor is one to commend itself to the attention of the capitalist; cheap, and under proper management, efficient and permanent. My own experience has taught me that the lower class of Mexicans, with the Opata and Yaqui Indians, are docile, faithful, good servants, capable of strong attachment when firmly and kindly treated. They have been peones (servants) for generations. They will always remain so, as it is their natural condition. The master, if he consults his own interest, and is a proper person to carry on extensive works, is (in their own language) their *'amo y patron'*—"guide, philosopher and friend."

"I can firmly assert that, although having large pecuniary interests in both Arizona and Sonora, I have not exaggerated the advantages or palliated the drawbacks to the investment of capital and personal enterprises in these States. They are a part of the Pacific Empire, in which I claim a citizenship of more than ten years. In these pages I have but one desire; to state things as they are, and, in the spirit of an honorable ambition, to connect my name in a permanent and useful way with her magnificent progress to a place among the powers of the world."

The Permanent Commission of the National Congress, a body which deals with legislative matters during the recess of the Chambers of Deputies and the Senate, has considered the proposition of the Legislature of Yucatan, forbidding the manufacture and sale of all beverages of an alcoholic character except beer and light wines, and has referred the question to the regular session of Congress.

Law of Mining Taxation

Regulations Under Which the Exploitation of All Classes of Minerals May be Carried Out

IN order to correct errors and omissions in the first law, the Federal Government has decreed a new law, that of April 26th of this year, and although in Article 1 it declares gold, silver and the industrial metals that are produced in the Republic or which proceed from foreign countries are subject to taxes, neither the production nor the importation of them is burdened, but only the exportation of the first and mining property. Quoting from this declaration, in order that it may be more intelligible, the following extracts are chosen:

Eight per cent of the value of gold and silver exported in ore or concentrates, cyanides or sulphides, or allied in any form with non-metallic substances.

Seven per cent if exported as bullion and with the alloy only of other metals, whatever may be the assay value of the product.

For the exportation of copper, six per cent on the raw product or in concentrates with an assay value of less than fifty per cent value in New York of 20 cents or more per pound of electrolytic copper; five per cent when it is worth less or the same if it is exported in bars, matte and concentrates with fifty per cent of copper, three hundred grams silver and five grams of gold per ton; four per cent when only the copper contents are greater and the gold and silver less, whatever the price of copper. In any case the gold and silver contents in it pay the corresponding duty on these metals. The duty on lead, tungsten, molibdeno, manganese, graphite, antimony and other metals, minerals and substances that contain them not specified in this law, one per cent of their value.

Exemptions to Exportation

The tax is not levied on the exportation of gold and silver in the above forms when the contents of gold do not exceed 2 grams per ton and that of silver 250 grams; or when imported as bullion or partly extracted and when they are exported within four months of their importation after having been employed in metallurgical work.

The duty does not apply to the exportation of copper the contents of which may be less than three per cent; that of lead of eight per cent and of zinc of fifteen per cent, nor samples of these minerals in their natural state weighing not more than ten kilograms, and with an intrinsic value of $10. Iron in minerals pays no export duty.

Conditions of Exportation

For mixed bars with whatever contents of gold and for minerals or concentrates with gold contents greater than two grams per ton, the exporter is required to reimport it within twenty days in gold bars ready for coinage or in gold money of foreign coinage equivalent in value to the gold exported. For refined silver or silver allied with other metals and of minerals or concentrates with contents of more than 250 grams per ton the exporter must reimport into Mexico within the same time in bars of gold ready for coinage, Mexican gold coin or foreign coin of such per cent as the Secretary of Hacienda shall periodically or in each case place on the value of the exported silver. No duties are imposed on the reimportations.

The exporter will furnish to the custom house where the exportation is made or at the mint or assay office a bond which will be a guarantee of these reimportations or their equivalents, which will be forfeited after twenty days in case of failure to comply with the law.

The gold will be delivered to the mint for coinage within thirty days of its reimportation. On the contrary, the forfeiture will become effective as in the case of non-importation. The mint will advise the custom house of the presentation of gold and the custom house likewise will inform the mint of the reimportation. Pending these advices the bond will not be cancelled.

Taxes on Mining Properties

First—Whatever minerals the mine may produce, a tax of $10 in stamps must be paid on the title to the property.

Second—Six dollars per pertenencia must be paid annually on mines of one to five or six pertenencias, or $2 each four months.

Third—Nine dollars per pertenencia on properties of from fifty to one hundred pertenencias, or $3 each four months.

Fourth—Twelve dollars per pertenencia on properties of from fifty to one hundred pertenencias, or $4 each four months.

Fifth—Eighteen dollars per pertenencia, or $4 for each third of a year, for properties of one hundred or more pertenencias, if belonging to one owner or if they are situated in the same district.

Exemptions from Mining Taxes

The States may not tax mining properties, the labor and production, with more than one tax, which shall never exceed two per cent of their value without deduction of costs (the law does not specify for what period, whether annually or in periods of two or more months). Therefore all taxes except the stamp tax, whatever may be its denomination, on extraction, production of the mines, invested capital, shares and mining titles, transference of ownership, denouncements, possessions, organization of companies, expediting the titles and procedures necessary for this purpose, are prohibited.

States may not impose a tax exceeding five pesos per thousand on the value of reduction plants, metallurgical offices, including coke furnaces when in operation and on the machinery.

Taxation of Coinage

Gold and silver presented at the mine for coinage will pay seven per cent. Money presented for recoinage will not be taxed.

The mint will receive gold without restrictions, but an order from the Department of Hacienda must accompany silver when it is presented for coinage.

For pure gold the mint will pay at the rate of $1,333,133 per kilogram, or the equivalent in Mexican money at the New York price on the day of presentation, deducting cost of freight and insurance from Mexico to New York, and with the limitations that the Secretary of Hacienda may fix when this price exceeds seventy-six and one-half cents ounce Troy.

(NOTE.—Another mining law is under discussion, but at this date—September 16—it had not been issued.)

Mexico Offers Supply of Majahua Fiber

A vegetable fiber which is produced in considerable quantities in the "costa chica" district of the State of Guerrero, Mexico, is taken from a low and rapidly growing tree known locally as "majahua." The fiber comes from the inner surface of the bark, and is retted and dried in the sun, then turned into cordage. Samples are forwarded.

Mr. Lyster H. Dewey, botanist in charge of fiber investigations, Bureau of Plant Industry, United States Department of Agriculture, states that a specimen taken from the samples mentioned, which was examined by him, is much more promising than most of the numerous of majahua, also called majagua and emajagua, received from various parts of the tropics in both hemispheres. He also makes the following statement regarding its production and use:

"There are probably very few fibers so widely and extensively used in the tropics of both hemispheres as this one obtained from the bark of *Paritium tiliaceum*. In nearly all cases, however, it is produced in a kind of ribbonlike form, which can not be spun successfully by machinery.

"If the fiber could be prepared without too much loss so as to be in the form of single strands instead of flat ribbons, it might be used in the same manner as jute, and with jute at present prices there would undoubtedly be a very good demand for it. It is fully as strong as the medium grades of India jute, but it is harsher, stiffer, and would not spin as readily, and therefore would not command a price equal to that now paid for jute.

"So far as is known at this office, this fiber has never been produced on a commercial scale or in quantities sufficient for export, but it is very largely used for twisting by hand into cords and twines for domestic use."—*Consular Reports.*

MARCH OF PROGRESS

A concession has been granted by the Secretary of Industry and Commerce for the exploitation of a deposit of gold, uranium and radium at Guadalupe, in the mountains of the State of Chihuahua. All the machinery necessary for thorough and extensive operation will be introduced. The Government will receive five per cent of the gross output in return for the permission granted. This is the only deposit of these minerals so far discovered in the Republic.

A technical and engineering office has been opened in Cananea, State of Sonora, by experts under the direction of the Departments of Fomento and Industry and Commerce, which will devote itself to a careful study of the national lands, forests, waters, etc., as well as to the unused lands held in private ownership, with especial reference to the encouragement of mineral development. The agrarian problem will receive particular attention.

The Department of Industry and Commerce has given notice to the national mining agents in all portions of the Republic to permit the denouncement of deposits of graphite, which had been forbidden by a decree of 1912. It is expected that activity will result in the development of this much-needed mineral, which is found in various localities in abundance.

Investigations made under instruction from the Department of Fomento have disclosed the presence in Sonora of extensive deposits of sulphate of molybdenum and also of tungsten, which are of great value in the manufacture of steel, as also of incandescent lamp films. These deposits, it is announced, will be developed upon an extensive scale.

A discovery has been made in the mountains near Tampico of a deposit of onyx that is said to be of superior quality and to be equal to the famous quarries of the same material in the State of Puebla, whose product has been utilized extensively in the embellishment of many public and private structures throughout the Republic and elsewhere. The new discovery will be developed at once on a large scale.

On the first day of March an entertainment was given in one of the leading theaters of Mexico City for the purpose of raising funds to be donated to the Allied forces in Europe. It was given under the auspices of the Lyric Club and a large sum was realized, which was distributed as follows: Thirty per cent each to the American and British forces, twenty per cent to the French, and ten per cent each to the Italian and Belgian.

A school for elementary instruction has been opened in the penitentiary in Mexico for the betterment of the inmates who lack the rudiments of education.

A laboratory with modern appliances is to be established by the National Government at Tampico for the purpose of making the necessary analyses of the petroleum exported from that section, in order to facilitate the collection of the export taxes, which are based upon the constituents of the product.

NEWS BREVITIES

A commission of Japanese bankers and commercial representatives has recently visited Mexico with the view of establishing a line of steamers on the West Coast and thus stimulating traffic between Mexico, Japan and other portions of the Orient.

The Labor Congress of the State of Zacatecas some time since petitioned the National Agrarian Commission to secure and allot lands for such laboring people as desired to cultivate them. This request has been favorably acted upon and a commission appointed to carry out the project, which will greatly alleviate the condition of the working classes.

The Secretary of the Department of Gobernacion, Sr. Manuel Aguirre Berlanga, has sent communications to the Governors of all the States in the Republic, requesting them to urge and assist the farmers to increase the area devoted to the production of beans, in order that not only may the home demand be met, but that there may be a surplus for exportation. The demand for this product is urgent and prices are such that the producers are sure of satisfactory returns.

The crop of garbanzos, or chick peas, which is produced mostly on the West Coast of Mexico, is larger this year than ever before known and many hundreds of carloads have already crossed the border into the United States. This is a novel food article for this country, but it is being received with favor wherever introduced, as it is both nutritious and appetizing to a degree.

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SPANISH TRANSLATION BY TECHNICAL EXPERT

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